

Book tours bring gay authors to town
Charles Karel Bouley packs them in at Castro shop; Keith Boykin coming next week.
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Philadelphia freedom
City's tourism campaign for gays is paying off.
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Mossad love story
'Walk on Water' from gay Israeli filmmakers.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 9 • 3 March 2005

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Million dollar baby

Actress Lindsay Wagner modeled the Hollywood Graffiti Gown Sunday, February 27 at the Academy of Fine Arts' 25th Oscar gala, "What d'argent." Made about town Hawt Donatas said Wagner looked great, but only wore the dress for a few minutes before it was taken back to its source location, Jerry Savel and Randy McLawhorn created the dress, an AIDS fund raiser, with 350 glamorous women donating their signatures, which were hand-printed in crystal stains on the gown. ADF's goal was a success, with about 3,000 people filling the Festival Pavilion at Fort Mason and the organization is on track to meet its fundraising goal of \$500,000. Donations column can be read at MillerSF.com and in the weekend Independent. For more news on the Oscars, see Due There on page 30.

Historic Atlanta conference tackles 'gay panic'

by Zak Szymanski

They wore suits, police uniforms, and Christian jewelry. They were predominantly members of the African American and heterosexual communities. And they gathered, from February 23-25 in Atlanta, to train each other in combating homophobia with the goal of putting an end to antigay tactics in the criminal justice system.

"Defeating the Gay Panic Defense" – the first-ever symposium of its kind – was presented by the Fulton County District Attorney's office, in conjunction with the Atlanta Police Department and the regional office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The conference attracted attendees from around the country, including New York City Human Rights Commissioner Patricia Gaillen; Jeffrey Montgomery, executive director of the Detroit-based Triangle Foundation



Zak Szymanski
Moderator Lyn Vaughn at conference

and board co-chair of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs; Dave O'Malley, the lead detective in the Matthew Shepard murder case and current vice mayor of Laramie, Wyoming; Air America radio hosts Rachel Maddow and Lizz Winstead; and dozens of district attorneys, legal advocates, judges, and police officers from Atlanta and beyond.

"We have reached a dangerous place in our country when you feel you can harm others because of what you perceive to be their sexual persuasion," said Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard at the conference's opening remarks. "It's not enough for us to stand by and be offended by this."

The "gay panic defense" – also expressed as the "trans panic defense" – is a term given to a non-legal defense tactic that essentially

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Israel trip builds bridges for gay leaders

by Matthew S. Bajko

For decades San Francisco's Jewish Community Relations Council has been sending local political and civic leaders on study missions to Israel, providing them an opportunity to visit counterparts and hear a range of views on the political strife and social tensions afflicting that part of the world.

In recent years, the council has reached out and extended invitations to local LGBT leaders, helping to foster ties between the Bay Area's gay community and gays and lesbians living in both Israel and Palestine.

"These are not propaganda tours. We genuinely want to expose people to the broadest diversity of perspectives," explained council associate director Abby Michelson Porth. "So, on the ground we want our participants to meet Palestinians and Israelis. We want them to meet Jewish Israelis and Arab Israelis. We want them to meet Muslim Israelis and Christian Israelis. We want them to hear all those different political perspectives."

The participation of the gay leaders on the trips has gone mostly unnoticed by local queer activists who oppose Israel's policies



Supervisor Bevan Dufty

toward Palestine. Leaders of the Oakland-based QUIT! – Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism – have not raised concerns about the study missions, partly because they said the trips have not registered on the group's radar screen. But they said they do question the inclusion of local politicians on the trips.

"It is a really interesting phenomenon. People need to ask why is it people representing a foreign country are targeting local leaders. What is the relationship? The answer is the \$15 million a day our government is giving the state of Israel," said Kate Raphael in a telephone interview from Canada. A member of QUIT!, Raphael was released from an Israeli jail in January where she had been detained since last December.

Raphael was apprehended while demonstrating against the Israelis' construction of

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HIV 'super strain' dominates retroviral confab

by Bob Roehr

The controversial claim of a "super strain" of HIV, announced at a news conference in New York City on February 11, had its first scientific review at the 12th retroviral conference in Boston.

Dr. David Ho, director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center and chairman of the conference, presented his data at an extraordinary special session on the evening of February 24. Five other presenters then offered briefings on drug resistance and rapid disease progression to provide a context for interpreting data from the NYC case.

Ho described the NY patient as a gay man, 46, who acknowledges having anonymous unprotected anal sex with hundreds of men, often while using crystal methamphetamine. He believes the man became infected with HIV in October and by January his CD4 cell count declined to 80. Laboratory tests detected viral RNA mutations that confer resistance to 19 of the 20 drugs commonly used to treat HIV.

Even more unusual was the swarm of virus infecting the patient. About 60 percent



Dr. David Ho

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Leland Yee introduces his first gay bill

by Matthew S. Bajko

As he prepares to run for a state Senate seat in 2006, Assemblyman Leland Yee (D-San Francisco) wants candidates for public office to publicly pledge not to use antigay rhetoric in their campaigns.

Last month, Yee introduced legislation that would prohibit the use of any negative appeal based on prejudice against LGBT people by candidates or campaign committees who sign a voluntary pledge under the state's Code of Fair Campaign Practices. Currently, candidates or campaign committees who take the pledge declare that they will not use or permit any appeal to negative prejudice based on sex, race, religion, national origin, physical health status, or age.

At a press conference in the Castro Friday, February 25, Yee said he wanted to be the main sponsor of the bill because he understands how people from underrepresented communities may avoid entering politics out of fear their minority status will be used against them.

"As a Chinese American I know how hard it is to get anyone to run for office. You are always worried racial epithets will be thrown at you," said Yee, while standing underneath the rainbow

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Rick Gerhardt

Assemblyman Leland Yee at his press conference last Friday.

CA bill would ban 'gay panic' defense

by Zak Szymanski

Months of work by LGBT advocates has culminated with the February 22 introduction of AB1160 by Assemblywoman Sally Lieber (D-Mountain View), a proposed change to the penal code as it relates to manslaughter definitions.

Prompted in large part by the use of the "trans panic" defense during the Gwen Araujo murder trial, the broad bill would cover populations protected by hate crimes statutes, essentially excluding the discovery of a person's gender, race, disability, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation from legally recognized justifications for murder.

"Voluntary manslaughter is described as killing upon a sudden quarrel or heat of passion. This bill would prohibit a finding of 'sudden quarrel' or 'heat of passion' if the defendant's actions resulted from the discovery, knowledge, or potential disclosure of a particular characteristic or association, as specified, which belongs to either the victim or defendant," the bill states. "This limitation applies even if the defendant dated, romantically pursued, or participated in sexual relations with the

victim."

Araujo, 17, was beaten and strangled to death in 2002 by a group of young men in the East Bay town of Newark when they discovered she had male genitalia. Attorneys for the men described the case as "classic manslaughter" because of the rage and panic the defendants experienced after their discovery. A jury could not agree to convict the men on first-degree murder charges despite evidence of premeditation, and a mistrial was declared in June 2004. The case is scheduled to be re-tried in May.

Lieber's legislation would specifically identify and prohibit such defenses from lessening the crime of murder. It should appeal to a broad range of groups, said Geoff Kors of Equality California, because it does not allow a defendant's hatred or bias toward a variety of populations to be a justification for murder or to be used in blaming a victim for his or her own death.

"What we're trying to do is stop the use of a bogus defense that people who commit crimes of hate try and hide behind," said Kors. "It's outrageous that people who commit heinous crimes get reduced convictions or sentences by claiming that a 'shock' led them to their violent act. Anytime someone claims that their discovery of a personal characteristic about someone is a motivation for killing, it flies against the whole concept of hate crimes laws and shouldn't be accepted. The defense is used to try to justify murder, but it's also used as a way to get information out about the victim before a jury in the hopes that jurors might have some biases and be sympathetic to the defendant."

EQCA worked on the legislation in conjunction with San Francisco's National Center for Lesbian Rights and the Transgender Law Center, as well as the Williams Project at the University of California, Los Angeles. Lieber — "who has been an incredible supporter of our community," said Kors — then agreed to carry it through the Legislature. Hearings on the bill are expected to begin sometime between late March and early May. ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

L Word fundraisers for Lyon-Martin continue

by Zak Szymanski

After a temporary closure and several staff resignations, San Francisco's historic Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services is undergoing critical changes, but community members can help to ensure the clinic's survival - by watching TV.

Every Sunday for the next several weeks at the nightclub Studio Z, episodes of *The L Word* will be shown to a festive crowd of partygoers who also enjoy making a difference. The Sunday parties begin at 5:30 p.m. and include screenings of previous as well as current episodes, dancing in the club, door prizes, and a live auction. Admission is \$5, with proceeds go toward keeping Lyon-Martin's doors open, and organizer Kary McElroy has a goal of raising \$20,000 for the organization.



L Word stars at last year's HRC dinner in San Francisco - Erin Daniels, Leisha Hailey, and Katherine Moening - with local fundraiser and producer Kary McElroy, second from right.

The first event on February 20 attracted over 1,200 people but suffered some technical problems,

which are now fixed, both McElroy and representatives from Stu-

next page ▶



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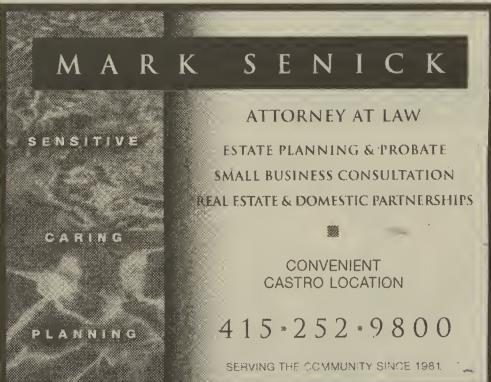
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MHR 'In-Kindness' Awards Sunday

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group, now entering its 20th year of services to people living with HIV, will host its annual "In-Kindness" Awards Sunday, March 6 at Yank Sing at the Rincon Center, 101 Spear Street, in San Francisco. The "Sunday Supper" event, one of MHR's largest fundraisers, will feature KRON-TV personality Liam Mayclem as master of ceremonies. The event starts at 6 p.m. with no host cocktails, followed by dim sum dinner and the awards presentation at 7. Tickets are \$145 per person.

This year's honorees include Pete Toms, who is in his 17th year as a support group volunteer; Tim Hanlon, president of the Wells Fargo Foundation, who has turned the focus of that organization to human services and significantly helped generate over \$12 million for the fight against AIDS; and Maitri Hospice, a respected provider of care to people seriously debilitated by AIDS.

For more information on Sunday's event or about Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group, visit www.mhr-asg.com or call (415) 863-1581.

South Bay HIV drop-in sessions

The Neil A. Christie Living Center, a drop-in space for people living with HIV/AIDS in San Jose,

has announced its next round of free workshops.

A safer sex workshop for men takes place Monday, March 7 from 4 to 6 p.m. A safer sex workshop for women takes place the same day from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Dessert is provided.

"Magnetic Gay Couples – When HIV-Positive and HIV Negative Equal Love" takes place Friday, March 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Both partners need to attend. Another session is scheduled for Friday, March 25 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Dessert is provided.

Safer sex for HIV-positive Latina women takes place Friday, March 11 from 3 to 5 p.m., and safer sex for HIV-positive Latino men takes place Friday, March 11 from 3 to 5 p.m. Safer sex for HIV-positive transgender individuals is scheduled for Friday, March 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Ongoing support groups at the center include an HIV-positive men's group on Thursdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m., and an AA meeting for HIV-positive men on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Jay Mueller, project coordinator at the center, notes that all programs are confidential. The center is located at 1252 Park Avenue in San Jose. For more information, call (408) 971-0852 or e-mail info@thelivingcenter.org.

Women's Day briefing

"Women, Poverty, and HIV" is the theme of the University of California, San Francisco's Women's Global Health Imperative's public briefing in observance of International Women's Day Tuesday, March 8. The event takes place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Green Room at the War Memorial Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. A reception follows the program.

Admission is \$10 and reservations are required as seating is limited. Kathleen Stack from Freedom from Hunger will be the keynote speaker. The organization provides practical information on how to better nourish children, keep families healthy, and grow a micro-enterprise into a flourishing business.

Other speakers include Nancy Padian, Ph.D., director of WGHI and associate director of research for the global health sciences. Padian is an epidemiologist and recognized expert in the heterosexual transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Megan Dunbar, the project director of an economic empowerment program for adolescents in Zimbabwe, is also scheduled to address the audience.

For ticket information, call (415) 248-1962 or e-mail kteevan@pacbell.net. ▼

L Word

◀ previous page

dio Z confirmed. Last week was the second event, which went smoothly and included broadcasts from new satellite equipment that linked two large screens directly to Showtime, a channel to which the bar subscribes. A third viewing room is in the process of being added.

The parties have already attracted some prominent guests, including Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) who attended the opening. Lyon-Martin's interim executive director Leslie Ewing has also been to the parties.

"It's a great grassroots com-

munity fundraiser and community builder and it's been really gratifying to see so many young women coming out to support Lyon-Martin," said Ewing, who said her task is to raise \$25,000 a month over the next few months in order to keep the clinic in operation, a "tough job ... but we can do it."

"Every bit helps," said Ewing, "and grassroots, for us, by us is what's going to dig us out of this."

McElroy said she was inspired to host a fundraiser for Lyon-Martin after learning of the clinic's troubles.

"I had worked as a stage manager for a past event of theirs and became familiar with them. They provide such an important service to the community, which really

motivated me to help further their cause and do anything I can do to keep their doors open," she said.

The events are all-inclusive, said McElroy, and representative of the diverse community.

"Gay, queer, transsexual, even straight people are coming together to have a great time ... and leave things better than the way we found them," she said.

For more information on the *L Word* parties, visit www.studioz.tv, or call (415) 756-6167.

To donate items or professional services for auction at the fundraisers, contact BettysList@BettysList.com. To host a fundraiser of your own or contribute money to Lyon-Martin, contact Lyon-Martin's development director at Teri@lyon-martin.org. ▼

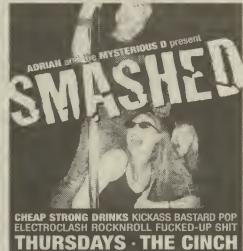
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Placerville hate rebuffed

by Jason Victor Serinus

It's no longer placid in Placerville. Life in Northern California's charming gold rush community, nestled in the Sierra foothills off Highway 50 midway between Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe, has recently been disrupted by a small group of so-called Christian antigay militants.

Armed with a billboard-toting "truth truck" plastered with messages that vary from "Homosexuality Is Sin" and "Jesus Hates Gay People" to the very few passages from the King James version of the New Testament that they consider anti-homosexual, the members of an exceedingly small, nearby congregation began their hate campaign last May. The situation escalated with their construction of GaymarriageNO.org, a Web site that called for the boycott of nine Main Street businesses (out of 225 in a three-block radius) they consider friendly to gay people.

Among businesses targeted were the Sierra AIDS Foundation and Tony Matthews' Fine Goods for Fine Living, a gourmet kitchen and home decorating business owned by Matt Huckabay, past president of the Placerville Downtown Association, and his partner Tony Matthews.

"When they see your ad in a gay publication," Huckabay told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a telephone interview, "that is enough to warrant being put on their boycott list."

The group is reportedly led by Richard Otterstad, who has declined to speak with media outlets. His son Luke told the *Sacramento News and Review* that the group has drawn a necessary line in the sand over the same-sex marriage issue.

So far, the antigay opposition consists of the few members of the congregation that spawned GaymarriageNO plus five women from another congregation who believe homosexuality is a sin but do not support GaymarriageNO's tactics. The GaymarriageNO group meets in the homes of various members. At the February 20 rally, close to 25 people from the Bay Area's Golden Gate Skins white supremacist organization also showed up.

GaymarriageNO members did not return requests for an interview for this article.

Huckabay believes that several thousand gays and lesbians, mostly couples who have moved up from the Bay Area, populate Placerville and the surrounding areas of El Dorado County. The predominantly white region also has a long history of social tolerance. It hosts the El Dorado Human Rights Roundtable, formed 12 years ago in response to reports of harassment of some African American forest workers. The roundtable's slogan is "El Dorado County is Too Great for Hate."

Of equal importance, Placerville is a thriving community that relies heavily on the tourist trade.

Steve Bryant, current president of the Human Rights Roundtable, said, "We want people to know that Placerville is a welcoming community. This is a great place to visit and live."

"Most people up here just want to live their lives in a nice country setting and not get political. But we're seeing more people take a stand," Bryant said.

Some months back, GaymarriageNO began handing out literature at El Dorado High School. Po-



Supporters of Placerville's "Hate-Free Zone" at a recent rally

lization escalated when the group also targeted an elementary school, passing out information that mentioned sodomy and asserted that gay men are child molesters.

Finally, GaymarriageNO showed up at a high school protest. One of their members allegedly punched a male student — whose sister is a lesbian — in the face after the student reached for a picket sign. The GaymarriageNO member was arrested, cited for battery, and released on \$15,000 bail.

"It was the escalation of violence that alarmed so many of our community members," explained Huckabay. "We've subsequently seen signs that say 'Jesus Kills! Repent!'"

On February 8, Placerville Mayor Roberta Colvin declared Placerville a "Hate-Free Zone." Several members of the City Council have since told Huckabay that gays have 100 percent support from council members.

Three anti-hate rallies have since been staged on successive Sundays in the downtown area. The largest, on February 20, drew 300 people. The El Dorado chapter of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays co-sponsored a

similar rally February 13.

"People want to make a statement," said Bryant. "There are some people who don't agree with our statements and don't understand what it means to have a hate-free zone without limiting free speech, but most people have been supportive."

Indeed, Huckabay reported that GaymarriageNO's economic boycott is actually increasing support for the targeted businesses.

"People are beginning to call us and asking how they can get their names added to the boycott list. They want to show that virtually all the businesses on Main Street are friendly to gay people."

About 100 gay-friendly supporters showed up for the February 27 rally, again countered by GaymarriageNO and Golden Gate Skins, Bryant said. Rather than risk a showdown on the courthouse steps, human rights supporters walked from Main Street to the highway, passing out flowers and "Too Great For Hate" bumper stickers. With GaymarriageNO bypassing the high school for now, the roundtable is assessing what to do next to maintain peace in Placerville. ▼



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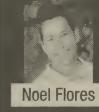
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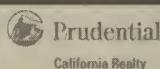
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BAY AREA REPORTER

Volume 35, Number 9
3 March 2005

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Victory in Kansas

Tolerance won. Fred Phelps lost. That was the message sent by voters in Topeka, Kansas Tuesday, March 1 when they rejected a repeal of a local ordinance that prohibits discrimination against gays and lesbians in municipal hiring. Score a victory for equality.

If voters had passed the ordinance, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Topeka would have been prevented from taking any action to protect LGBT people from discrimination for the next 10 years and would have overturned the local law as it applies to city workers. NGLTF was involved actively in the campaign and joined with local residents in the successful effort to fight the ballot measure.

"Today, the people of Topeka not only rejected discrimination, they chose decency over immorality, truth over despicable lies, and they repudiated the hate-filled beliefs and practices of Fred Phelps and his Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka," Executive Director Matt Foreman said at an election-night party in the city that was attended by hundreds of supporters. "We beat him in his own town, thanks to all of you. This victory is being savored across the country."

Despite intense pressure from Phelps and his Westboro Baptist Church, residents voted 53 percent to 47.25 percent to reject the repeal. Coming just months after a brutal election cycle that saw antigay marriage amendments pass in 11 states last November, it is a sweet victory indeed, and shows that even with one of the country's leading homophobes living among them, voters were not swayed by Phelps's hate.

Tuesday's election was also significant in that Topeka's first openly gay City Council member, Tiffany Muller, 26, advanced in the primary and will be on the general election ballot next month. Jael Phelps, the 20-year-old granddaughter of Fred, also ran for the council but finished last and is out of the running. Yet another victory for equality, although the elation will be short-lived. In the April 5 election, voters also will consider a state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage in Kansas, a measure likely to be approved.

Foreman acknowledged that the ballot measure was confusing, and proponents of the repeal say they will try again. Not surprisingly, the so-called Truth in Love Outreach campaign misled voters, Foreman said. "We know from calling hundreds of voters that there was enormous confusion about what actually was on the ballot — many thought a 'yes' vote was a vote to pro-

tect gay people, while others truly believed the only purpose of the ordinance was to protect Topeka families," Foreman said in a statement.

"This could have been a stain on our community and confirmed everything the national media has been saying about us," Muller told the *Topeka Capital-Journal* Tuesday night as she watched returns. A story this week in the *New York Times* detailed Muller's re-election bid and the campaign of hate being waged by Jael Phelps.

We hope the country is watching Kansas. The voters' decision to keep in place protections from discrimination undeniably that if the majority of residents in Phelps's hometown stood up for tolerance, there is absolutely no reason why the Employment Non-Discrimination Act could not be passed by Congress at the federal level. ENDA is not gay marriage, and voters throughout the country have the ability to make that distinction.

It's time for the Human Rights Campaign, NGLTF, the Log Cabin Republicans, and other national gay groups that recently signed that "unity statement" to step up to the plate and begin a concerted, sustained effort to pass ENDA. LCR needs to get Republican members of Congress on board — and fast. We need to use this momentum now,

and send the message that discrimination in employment is not an American value.

Earlier this week the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that juveniles must not be sentenced to death in criminal cases. In his majority opinion, Justice Anthony Kennedy, who voted with the majority to uphold executions of juveniles 16 years ago, said the new decision was necessary because of the "evolving standards of decency" throughout the world. That reasoning also was evident in another of Kennedy's landmark opinions, the *Lawrence* decision that struck down sodomy laws. The same reasoning should prevail in Congress concerning ENDA: that is, many other countries around the world offer antidiscrimination laws for gays. Some countries, like Great Britain and Israel, even allow gays to serve openly in the military.

We'll take this victory in Topeka. But we realize that Phelps isn't going away; his hatemongering is alive and well. Even in some Northern California cities (as we report on page 5), small bands of religious zealots are lashing out at gays and attempting to disrupt businesses that are gay friendly. People are fighting back, however, and gays and straight allies who are disturbed with the tactics being used by Phelps and his ilk are standing up for what is right. ▼

Editorial



Coming out in the classroom

by Emmit Hancock

In the first day of school, on the first day of my first teaching job as fifth grade teacher, I confronted two students using extremely homophobic and derogatory words about homosexuals. These students then asked me if I am gay and I said yes. This caused such a big stir among the fifth grade students that I had to clarify myself as being married to a woman, but having identified for five years as being gay, although now I am bisexual. The students seemed to have many questions about this, but instead of turning the day into a sexuality awareness day, I changed the subject to the prescribed curriculum.

The second day I arrived expecting a picked line of Latino Catholic parents protesting my position, but there weren't. Later that day, though, I was pulled aside by an administrator who had received a phone call from a parent concerned about the discussion of sexuality. The administrator told me to keep my "personal" life secret and to not discuss sexuality with the students. Later I met other GLBT teachers and realized how terrified they are about anybody knowing their sexuality.

The following few weeks I endured many students shouting slanderous, antigay epithets at me. Another teacher at the school pulled his son from my class. The first words of his reasoning referred to how inappropriate it was to tell the students of my bisexuality. I was beginning to feel as if being bisexual is a shameful thing because the overriding culture of the school was beginning to seem extremely homophobic.

A month later I was assigned a mentor, who was also the vice principal, to support me in teaching the curriculum and managing the classroom. The first words in telling me of her assignment were how she would like to have fired me the first day of school, because being open about my bisexuality is completely inappropriate in her mind.

She then told me how devoutly Catholic she is. She did not allow me to play any more music, group the students, or facilitate any art projects. I was to teach strictly by the scripted curriculum with the students in straight lines. She did not allow any differentiation to the curriculum. Apparently during this time she was accumulating a folder of evidence proving how unsafe my classroom is and how I refuse to teach the curriculum appropriately.

Every time I would speak with the principal about how I was doing she would always bring up the topic about my open sexuality as a mistake. I was not supported by the administration, I was failing my students with the lack of undifferentiated instruction, and the parents started complaining about me. The principal said I

would no longer be the teacher because I gave the students too much freedom. She said if I were to have kids I would spoil them rotten. She suggested I resign, which I did because I was growing tired of confronting such discrimination.

I will take some time off now from teaching, but would like to eventually be a classroom teacher again. I feel I have the right to be openly bisexual and hope to find a place where such an opinion is respected. Every great teacher I ever had has always brought his or her "private" life into the classroom as a reference to the subject matter. Fortunately for those teachers they were straight, religious types, with a private life accepted by mainstream culture (whatever that is). It is such a shame that teachers without the cookie-cutter lifestyle are censored and absolutely frightened of anybody knowing exactly how they feel. I dream of the day students and teachers can have open and honest discussions without fear. Maybe once gay people can be married they can finally be teachers. I dare every teacher to compare gay rights with civil rights. ▼

Guest Opinion

ers without the cookie-cutter lifestyle are censored and absolutely frightened of anybody knowing exactly how they feel. I dream of the day students and teachers can have open and honest discussions without fear. Maybe once gay people can be married they can finally be teachers. I dare every teacher to compare gay rights with civil rights. ▼

Emmit Hancock, a Bay Area resident, was formerly an elementary school teacher on the Peninsula.

LETTERS

Concerns about bar

We are writing in response to the article "Concerns about efforts to 'de-gay' Polk Street" [February 17]. Certain dubious statements and misrepresentations in the article need to be addressed and corrected. Club Rendez-Vous co-owner David Kapp is reported to have said that he welcomes "low life" to the club as well as "champagne and politicos." "Low life" appears to be used in reference to hustlers and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth who sometimes gather outside of the club. Later in the article, Susan Stryker's quote is used to suggest that Club Rendez-Vous might even be providing a service to LGBT street kids who were forced from their homes by serving as an entry point to the street economy (i.e. prostitution). "If you get kicked out of home as a teenager, that might affect your level of education or your ability to acquire marketable job skills."

While it is certainly true that youth who are forced from home due to homophobic, transphobic, and biphobic circumstances usually do not have the necessary skills to enter the workforce, it is entirely false to therefore conclude that they are somehow served through a setting such as Club Rendez-Vous where they are likely to find themselves coerced for economic reasons into hustling for their own survival. Mr. Kapp's own admission suggests that unsavory people are welcome at his establishment. This is not the hospitality San Franciscans should be offering to LGBT kids (or anyone, for that matter) who find themselves on the streets through no fault of their own. And it is not homophobic to say so. On the contrary, we believe that each and every youth has a right to housing, an education, and a life free from sexual predation, substance abuse and addiction, and the many other dangerous facets of the street economy.

There are many venues for young LGBT people in San Francisco that offer safe and constructive social settings. Our agency, Larkin Street Youth Services, is one such organization. At Larkin Street, we work with many of the very young people who previously found themselves forced into street survival work such as prostitution; we offer each individual a youth-centered approach that enables them to permanently exit street life. Moreover, there are many other venues in San Francisco that do not place youth in harm's way such as social organizations (swim teams and running clubs), LYRIC and the LGBT Community Center, to name a few.

Larkin Street Youth Services has very serious reservations regarding the relocation and re-opening of Club Rendez-Vous and our reasons have nothing to do with the sexual orientation of the clientele. Our reservations stem from the fact that Rendez-Vous serves as a venue that does not support homeless and runaway street kids finding viable exits to street life and on the contrary, exposes youth to "low life" elements who do not have their best interests in mind.

Jaime R. Balboa, Chief of Staff
Sherilyn Adams, Director of Specialty Services
Larkin Street Youth Services

Bar needs backers

I am not convinced by Club Rendez-Vous' full-page ad [Bay Area Reporter, February 24] justifying their not moving to a new location on Polk Street. Why are they allowing a group of presumably well-meaning busybodies to prevent them from re-opening in a new location down the street?

Polk Street needs the Club Rendez-Vous. If the club needs backup in the cojones department, they should recruit some of the royalty from the Imperial Court.

Michael Zonta
San Francisco

Our church is not the enemy

The recent B.A.R. article about the controversy surrounding the closing of the Rendez-Vous bar on Polk Street made vague reference to a church that has purchased the property, thus causing the bar to move elsewhere. Many in the LGBT community might incorrectly assume that this Christian church is hostile to the community. Although the reporter failed to identify it, readers should know that the church in question is, in fact, a longtime friend of the LGBT community – the First Congregational Church of San Francisco, United Church of Christ, the second oldest Protestant church in San Francisco (founded in the Gold Rush year of 1849). Concluding a long search for another site after selling its fourth building at Bush and Mason in 2001, FCC finally purchased the Polk Street property in commitment to a strong and continuing presence as a Christian neighbor in the Polk Street community. After acquiring the property, FCC honored the Rendez-Vous' lease, which ended in spring 2004, and then gave the bar an additional seven months to vacate before the church could begin to demolish the current buildings on the site in preparation for construction of its new church building, scheduled for later this year.

In its former building, FCC was the rehearsal home to the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus for over

15 years, provided support throughout the AIDS crisis, a homeless shelter, and a home for many LGBT persons in different types of recovery. FCC has been present in the Pride Parade for the past 20 years, and hosted monitor training the past two years. The church has been served by several gay and lesbian clergy (including the current pastor), and has a significant number of LGBT members.

FCC has taken no stand in the current neighborhood controversy about relocating the Rendez-Vous bar in Polk Gulch. Apparently blaming our church for their troubles, the bar employees recently disrupted our brief Sunday morning worship service with loud pounding and angry remarks. As we forgave their misplaced hostility we prayed that spiritual healing would transform their anger into greater care for the community. We acknowledge the role that the Rendez-Vous has played as a gathering place for some local Polk denizens and LGBT residents. But despite our years of support for the LGBT community, FCC is unfairly censured simply because our plans to continue our long service to San Francisco and the LGBT community necessitate requiring a LGBT business to vacate, even though it was granted two years to do so. Gay bars frequently close or change hands in San Francisco, and many are replaced by businesses less than gay-friendly. In contrast, our new home on Polk Street will certainly ensure that a LGBT "presence" will continue there, and our involvement in the lives and problems of our neighbors will only increase with the construction of our new building.

For those unfamiliar with our church, the United Church of Christ is the largest and first "mainline" Protestant denomination to fully accept LGBT people into the life of the church, including full ordination of clergy.

All the members of First Congregational Church of San Francisco welcome everyone to join us in worship at our temporary space next to the old Rendez-Vous on Polk Street every Sunday morning at 11 a.m., when we joyfully affirm that "God is still speaking" to and through the LGBT community (www.sanfranciscucc.org).

Ken Tipton, Joe Story, and Kirk Thomas
San Francisco

The Simpsons and TGs

I just wanted to write and say how much I appreciated your editorial concerning the "gay marriage" episode of the Simpson's ("Patty and Veronica," February 24). I, too, was very disturbed by the show's insensitive treatment of transgender people. I was especially angered by the implication that a man would pretend to be a woman in order to have an advantage in sports. This sort of silliness has again been raised in regards to professional golfer Mianne Bagger, the post-op transsexual who has joined the Ladies European Tour. I cannot help but wonder if the show was conceived with her in mind.

Jennifer Usher
San Francisco

Disappointed at Migden

I was disappointed that newly elected state Senator Carole Migden was critical of House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi in her column praising Howard Dean ("Dean's the man at DNC," February 24). Pelosi is the only national leader who has declared support for marriage equality, and she has made it her personal responsibility to defeat the "mean-spirited" and "political" federal marriage amendment ("Pelosi blasts anti-gay marriage amendment, B.A.R., December 1, 2003"). Dean, whom I also admire, hasn't gone as far as Pelosi, endorsing only civil unions but not marriage equality. Pelosi is a strong and committed ally in Congress for the LGBT community, and she deserves our thanks and support. To paraphrase Rodney King – "Can't we Democrats just get along?"

Rich Kowalewski
San Francisco

Koko and breasts

Apparently Koko, the famous female gorilla who communicates in Ameslan (American English Sign Language), likes to look at the bare breasts of human females.

And at least three former employees are freaking out about this – in lawsuits where lawyers exhibit breastphobia, homophobia, and gorillaphobia.

It's unfortunate, in my queer opinion, that the Koko Foundation has hired, from time to time, unqualified employees who don't really appreciate how wonderful Koko is. It's even more unfortunate that such employees were ever introduced to Koko.

I would respectfully suggest that being introduced to Koko is a privilege, which thousands of her fans would cherish. This privilege shouldn't be squandered on persons who cannot accept Koko's personality, habits, et cetera – even if such persons happen to be employees.

Besides, Koko herself lives naked. (She hasn't had any practical need for clothing since she was a baby in diapers.) Her keepers never taught her to be ashamed of

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New, hip hotel to open

by Katharine Holland

Chip Conley, chairman and CEO of **Joie de Vivre Hospitality**, on March 9 opens the chain's first new construction Hotel Vitale, across from the Ferry Building on the Embarcadero. Built on the site of a former Muni bus layover yard and over six years in the making, the hotel is a joint venture between the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, the Emerald Fund, and Joie de Vivre Hospitality. A combination transit museum and retail shop will be operated by the nonprofit Market Street Railway. The eight-floor property has 200 rooms, a rooftop indoor/outdoor spa, suites with Bay Bridge views, a gourmet restaurant, and outdoor cafe. For reservations call (888) 890-8688.

When I saw the always-ever-vivacious **Donna Sachet** in a lovely *Gone With the Wind*-style hoop skirt dress at the recent opening of Joie de Vivre's Archbishop's Mansion at 1000 Fulton Street on Alamo Square. I told Donna, "You look so lovely, I want to be you!" She said, "No, you don't. I have too many bills."



Business Briefs



Courtesy: Joie de Vivre Hospitality

Joie de Vivre Hospitality's new Hotel Vitale opens next week.

www.hairsalon.biz

Lesbian firm now in SF

After 25 years in Oakland, **Olivia**, a travel company serving the gay and lesbian community, kicked off its move to San Francisco with a big party at its three-story location at 434 Brannan Street at 4th. Mayor Gavin Newsom congratulated Olivia

for being the 25th business to move its headquarters to San Francisco in February.

I remember Herb Caen quoting that the Bay Bridge separates us from Oakland but the Golden Gate Bridge connects us to Marin. Hee-hee. Comedienne Margo Gomez shared the stage with Olivia CEO **Amy Errett** and Olivia founder and President **Judy Dlugacz**. Cecil Williams and the Glide Ensemble provided some jazzy tunes for the hundreds of ladies attending the opening. Contact www.olivia.com for information on their cruise and resort vacations or call (415) 972-5700.

A good fit

According to **Barry Schmell** and **Joe Costa**, the best business decision they made was locating their business in the Castro. "It has been smooth sailing," Costa said. The couple just celebrated the one-year anniversary of **De La Sole Footwear** at 4126 18th Street at Castro. "People come up to me and say 'it's about time,'"

Costa said. "We are the gay mecca. We need our own shoe boutique in the Castro." The two had 15 years experience in fashion eyewear before they decided to begin their first endeavor as entrepreneurs. They used their anniversary party to raise money for the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center and donated \$670 to the organization. Welcome to the neighborhood!

Centerfold and literature

Ralph Hyman from **Haf Publishing** sent me a news release about the re-launch of *On Our Backs*, a quarterly lesbian sex magazine. Yes, that's Hyman. Due out this spring, the magazine will continue its tradition of featuring a nude lesbian centerfold. Editor **Diana Cage** promises to bring readers "the brightest new voices in queer literature." So they intend to draw an audience of people who read these magazines for the articles?

Transitions

Congratulations to **Paul Moffett**, who is expected to become the new president of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro association. **Barry Hermanson**, a former MUMC president and owner of **Hermanson's Employment Services**, is closing his business this month after 25 years. He plans to stay involved in the Castro business community. I could have predicted that **It's Delectable** bakery at 4416 18th Street would go dark one of these days. It had short hours and I hardly ever saw anyone in there. Too bad.

Until next month

With all the headlines about Blockbuster closing stores and Netflix and Blockbuster competing to be the top place to rent DVDs, is it an anomaly that the Castro's video stores expanded last year?

GGBA news

Join us at **For Your Eyes Only Optometry**, the office of optometrist **Dr. Kathleen Kennedy** at 552 Castro Street at 18th Street on Tuesday, March 15 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. for the monthly Golden Gate Business Association "Make Contact" mixer. This event is free to GGBA members and \$10 for non-members. I hope to see you there! Visit www.ggba.org for more information or call (415) 865-5545. ▼



Courtesy: De La Sole Footwear

De La Sole Footwear owners Barry Schmell, left, and Joe Costa celebrate the store's first anniversary.

Katharine Holland is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Real Estate, specializing in residential and investment properties in San Francisco. You can reach her at khsf@att.net, (415) 447-8849 or www.katharinaholland.com.

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POLITICS

School district faces tough times

by G. Stuart Flores

Editor's note: While the Bay Area Reporter looks for a new political columnist, following the retirement of Wayne Friday, we have invited several LGBT officials and others to write guest columns. This is the third in a series of such columns.

It looks like the San Francisco school board and Superintendent Arlene Ackerman have more to worry about than any past disagreements. Enrollment is falling, and with declining enrollment comes declining budgets. To make up for the budget shortfalls, Ackerman has stated that some schools likely will have to be closed. New proposals for the way students are placed in schools have been presented to the school board for consideration. In addition the teachers' contract is coming up for negotiation and they don't seem to be in a conciliatory mood. If that isn't enough the federal government is pushing all districts in the country to provide military recruiters with student directory information. The compliance incentive the feds are using to get this information is the withholding of the roughly 10 percent of the school budget they provide under the No Child Left Behind programs. Board of Education President Eric Mar, the six other board members, and Ackerman

will be needing all the ideas, cooperation, and support they can muster to see the school district through a very rough period.

Community college board

The new Community college board has met, and much to the surprise of Milton Marks III it broke with tradition. In the past, the board member who received the most votes in the election became president of the board. In the last election Marks received more votes than any other member. However, a majority of the board voted to make longtime member Rodel Rodis, president.

Board of Supervisors

A special happy 50th birthday to District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty. The Saturday night bash at Indigo was a wild success that will be remembered by all who attended. And don't worry Bevan: you don't look a day over 49!

Around California

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's threat to call a special election may be in trouble. For the past several weeks, the governor has announced his intention to go directly to the voters if the Legislature does not approve his plan to overhaul state government. His various proposals include merit pay for teachers, changes in public pension plans, redistricting, tying the budget to revenue, consolidation of agen-



Outgoing Secretary of State Kevin Shelley
Rick Gerhardt

cies and commissions, and maybe a part-time legislature. But the administration has backed off from some of the changes and abandoned others. Additionally, recent polls show the majority of Californians do not want a special election with its associated cost, even if they agree with some of Schwarzenegger's proposals. However, the governor may suspect he will need a special election because there could be up to 70 other initiatives on the ballot for the next general election. In that scenario, the governor's proposals would simply be lost in the mix.

Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) showing that not

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Real identity theft

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

In an effort to protect against terrorists, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed the Real ID Act of 2005, also known as HR418 (the capitalization stands for nothing in particular, according to an aide in Wisconsin Representative James Sensenbrenner's office). A similar bill will soon go to the Senate, and President Bush has promised to sign this legislation into law.

This ID act consists of three main sections. The first prevents terrorists from obtaining asylum in the United States, and the second gives the secretary of Homeland Security fairly wide-reaching power to create barriers along the borders of the country.

It is the third part of this act that is causing the most concern, and it is here where I find myself more than a little worried. In this section, the government is seeking a federal standard for state driver's licenses or identification cards. Effectively, this will remove much of any given state's ability to have its own standards for identification.

Moreover, this also would call for all states to link their Department of Motor Vehicle databases, which could eventually lead to a single, nationwide database storing all of a person's identification.

To tell you the truth, I would rather not have my identity managed for me.

Think of all the places where your name might appear. Your birth certificate, your Social Security card, and your driver's license are the obvious ones. Any credit card you have in your wallet, library cards, gym memberships, all those "loyalty" cards that so many stores love to sell you — these all contain your name. Bank records, utilities, and, of course, reams of school records each can include a part of your identity. Each of these can require change.

When I went through the process of changing my name and gender, I discovered just what a lengthy, time-consuming thing this could be. You see, every entity seems to have a different set of rules about what can be changed, and why. While some made the change without blinking an eye — consider my elementary school that even issued me a new diplo-

ma to go along with a change in their school records — others flat out refused to make any sort of permanent change to any of my information.

In all of this, the easiest was changing the name and gender on my driver's license. I live in a state where this process is quick and painless, requiring only one piece of paper. Granted, it needs to be filled out by a medical doctor, but it is still far better than some locales where such a change is not allowed.

Knowing what a lengthy process this can be, and knowing that there is often no simple procedure in place for changing one's identification markers is what concerns me

about the Real ID act. It mandates federal requirements, but doesn't give any easy concept for changing any of the information.

This potential national database, too, is a concern. We live in an information age, and a database containing one's name, birth date, Social Security number, address, and yes, gender in a centralized location could at some later point link to even more sensitive materials, such as one's medical information.

It is not to say that there isn't something to be said for a little uniformity in the way records are kept. The problem is that such uniformity can all too easily cause those of us who do not conform all that well to end up with some rather unpleasant issues with which to deal.

Consider, for example, the continuing fight over same-sex marriage. The issue that faces a transperson in all this is — when a law states that marriage is for one man and one woman — there is no clear definition of just what is meant by "man" or "woman." Thus far, most defense of marriage act struggles have involved the marriages of transgender people, and it is those same transgender people who have so often lost not only their marriage rights, but even their identity as a man or woman thanks to those marriage statutes.

The way this has played out at the federal level, thus far, has been



Gwendolyn Ann Smith

to see entities like U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly Immigration and Naturalization Services) disallowing immigration via marriage when one of the parties involved is transsexual — regardless of surgical or legal status in a given gender.

Indeed, one could easily foresee a situation under the Real ID act where gender markers would be immutable. Given the aforementioned "bar all transsexuals" stance of the USCIS, I don't exactly feel confident that a change in a national identification database would be easily won, nor that nationally-imposed standards for identification would have a liberal method for changing one's information.

The ironic part of all this is that while it certainly has the possibility of causing a lot of trouble for a transgender woman such as myself, it could cause little real disruption to a terrorist. If one wants an identification card, I'm sure that there are still plenty of fake ones out there being made — and if one is truly willing to carry out some heinous crime such as a major terrorist attack, having a valid driver's license is not going to be a necessity.

Indeed, the only people I see being thwarted by the Real ID act are those like myself, who simply want to be able to manage our own identity paperwork without fear that some government agency will be given the chance to determine under which gender we should be listed.

I hope you will stand with me against this Real ID act, and consider dropping a line to your senator voicing your opposition. ▼

Gwendolyn Ann Smith took a long time getting her identity, and plans to keep hold of it. You can find her online at www.gwensmith.com.

Get those grand marshal ballots in



Rick Gerharter

Public voting for Pride Parade community grand marshals started last weekend. Above, Aidan Kotler helps a voter cast his ballot at 18th and Castro streets. Pride board President Joey Cain said voting would continue through March. This weekend, voting takes place Saturday, March 5 at the End Up from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Sunday, March 6 at Café Flore from 7 to 9 p.m. Volunteers will also be at Trannyshack at the Stud bar Tuesday, March 15 from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. People can go to www.sfpride.org to download the ballot, but must mail it in.

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12/02

Cruising Lincoln

by Dale Carpenter

I found myself online the other day chatting with a friend about Abraham Lincoln's perfect thighs. He also had big hands, my friend noted. True, I replied, but he was homely. Ruggedly handsome, he retorted. Or it went like that. There we were, cruising the greatest president in American history.

The occasion for this excited chatter was the recent publication of C.A. Tripp's *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln*. Tripp, now deceased, claims that Lincoln was predominantly homosexual. Indeed, he precisely rates Lincoln a "5" on the famous Kinsey scale that ranges from "0" (entirely heterosexual) to "6" (entirely homosexual).

I avoided reading reviews of the book, not wanting to prejudice myself either way. I wanted to see whether it could rise or fall on its own. Now I've read it. There is no need to consult learned Lincoln scholars or to track down important sources and facts Tripp omitted. The book collapses under its own light weight.

There are shards of evidence that Tripp adduces suggestively to support his claim: a vengeful poem Lincoln wrote in which there are a few lines about two boys who marry each other (penned after two male acquaintances excluded Lincoln from their real weddings); the "perfect thighs" comment from a friend of Lincoln (which, for Tripp, by itself "strongly suggests" they had femoral intercourse); Lincoln's sometimes awkward relations with women; and so on. None of this amounts to much.

Tripp sometimes anachronistically projects onto Lincoln stereotypes of modern urban gay men (e.g., Lincoln avoided "team sports"). Even proof of Lincoln's heterosexual capacity, such as his ability to consummate his marriage to Mary Todd, with whom he had four sons, is in Tripp's hands evidence that he was a "top."

These embarrassments aside, Tripp's case comes down to three main points. In ascending order of persuasiveness, they are: Lincoln matured early; as president, he slept with his bodyguard; and as a young lawyer, he slept with a roommate.

Lincoln probably reached puberty at age 10, about three years

earlier than the average. "This is significant," claims Tripp, because the earlier males reach puberty the more likely they are to have homosexual experiences. It's a very weak argument. The gap in homosexual experience between early- and late-maturing males is initially large but decreases over time, becoming negligible by age 30. More importantly, Tripp cites no support for a correlation between early puberty and homosexual orientation. Early-maturing males, like other males, are overwhelmingly heterosexual.

For an eight-month period in 1862-63 Lincoln may have slept occasionally in the same bed at the White House with a personal bodyguard, army captain David Derickson (a father of nine children). The evidence that they slept together is fairly thin, consisting of contemporaneous gossip and unsubstantiated passages in two obscure histories. Even if they did sleep together, it would not be surprising to find the president's personal bodyguard in his bedroom at the lowest point in the Union's fortunes in the Civil War, in a city full of rebel sympathizers and potential assassins.

It's similarly unsurprising to learn that the president's bodyguard accompanied him to church, cabinet meetings, battlefields, and the theater. Yet Tripp treats these outings as if they were dates. Lincoln also told Derickson stories of his early life and shared battle reports with him, again unsurprising for two men who necessarily spent much time together. Yet Tripp likens these conversations to "pillow talk." Such overinterpretation of scanty evidence mars the whole book.

The strongest evidence for Lincoln's homosexuality is his close friendship with Joshua Speed. When Lincoln was a struggling lawyer, the men shared a bed for four years. Lincoln also wrote letters to Speed that, to modern ears, sound unusually tender. This much is familiar ground, and Tripp adds very little to it.

Tripp claims that he, as a homosexual, has detected the hidden romantic significance of the surviving letters, something missed by earlier scholars eager to downplay it. Yet the letters, which Tripp helpfully appends, deal mostly with politics, business, the men's marriages, and similar fare. They are written in the florid style of

19th century correspondence, full of expressions of devotion and anxieties for reunion, but for this gay reader there is nothing very suggestive about them. For Tripp, however, the lack of overt homoeroticism is itself evidence of a "cover up" by the lovers.

As Tripp concedes, it was common in Lincoln's time for men to sleep together in places like boardinghouses and inns. However, four years does seem suspiciously long. Perhaps this too is a modern reaction, according to which all male-male intimacy carries the whiff of homosexuality. If the men's lengthy cohabitation would have raised eyebrows at the time, it is odd that both men freely acknowledged it to friends, even while going to elaborate lengths to "cover up" their relationship in private letters to one another.

I am not saying that Lincoln never had a homosexual experience. Perhaps he did. But it is another thing entirely to claim that Lincoln's orientation was mainly homosexual. Any such claim comes with a heavy burden of persuasion. Modern research suggests that less than 5 percent of men are primarily homosexual. The odds against Lincoln, or anyone else, being a Kinsey "5" or "6" are at least 20 to 1.

Should we care? Some commentators have suggested that Lincoln's hidden homosexuality may explain his characteristic sadness, sensitivity, and capacity for empathy and sympathy. But these qualities could also be explained by losing a mother when you're a child, living in poverty on a hard-scrabble frontier, enduring the deaths of your own children, and leading a divided nation in the most deadly war in its history.

The book's central claim is desperate conjecture based on strained interpretation of fragmentary evidence to reach a very unlikely conclusion. It is a product of the unfortunate tendency in our time to reduce life to its sexual component. The man who saved the Union, who abolished the grotesque evil of slavery, who gave us the magnificent Gettysburg address and the sublime second inaugural, is in Tripp's world just another top. We should leave Lincoln's thighs alone. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com. Some of his past columns can be read at <http://www.indegayforum.com>.

Mailstrom

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her own nudity — so why should humans be shocked if a naked gorilla asks them to undress?

Physically, she's no longer a child. If her female handlers were willing, and if Americans were less sexophobic, she might ask for more intimacy than just looking at their bare breasts.

(We don't know what she may have asked of human men. At any rate, none has sued about any such requests. Our U.S. culture pressures girls to be more prudish than boys; and so, on average, with many individual exceptions, most adult women usually internalize a fear of nudity. Also, a straight man isn't likely to be offended by the erotic (or proto-erotic) desires of a female; more likely he's flattered, even when he

sighs No. However, we don't know the sexual orientations of the humans in Koko's circle of friends and acquaintances.)

At any rate, Koko deserves loving friendship from those humans who really appreciate her. And she should be shielded from humans who don't feel comfortable around her — who may despise her for having same-sex desires, or for having different-species desires.

(Caveat: The lawsuit(s) include other employment issues, about which I know nothing and have no opinion. My remarks above concern only the allegations about breast-baring.)

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco

Get thee to a nunnery

Recently, I was asked to pick up a check at the Mix, a bar at 18th and Castro streets. A few

short months prior they [staff and patrons] had started a pool tournament and raised \$720 for the AIDS Emergency Fund. Not only was the bar very clean, the music was pleasant and of moderate volume.

Kevin Keane's remarks about bars regarding "noise" and "new alcoholics" are over the top (*Mailstrom, February 24*). The wonderful support the charities like AEF get in fundraising from the bars (from having Every Penny Counts jars for patrons to larger charitable events) is truly a testament to human compassion and generosity to the less fortunate.

Perhaps Mr. Keane could "get a life," volunteer, and do something for others — help the deaf, assist at AA meetings — and stay away from those salt laden buffets!

David Slocombe
San Francisco

Israel

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a security wall, which she calls a "segregation" wall, in the village of Bela'in. She is now banned from entering the country for at least the next 10 years, she said.

Concerted effort

Porth said the council has made a concerted effort to see that gays and lesbians are included on the study missions because the Jewish community has its own gay and lesbian population that is for the most part very well integrated into the Jewish community. The organization also sees many similarities between the gay community's fight for recognition and civil rights with the struggle of Jews to establish and maintain a homeland recognized by other nations as well as to escape persecution, she said.

"The Jews, clearly for thousands of years, have been people who have struggled for self-determination, for acknowledgment and recognition, and for human and civil rights. For the LGBT community, visiting Israel is an eye-opening experience because it is perhaps the only country in the entire Middle East where gays and lesbians are fully recognized," said Porth. "They are, unlike in the United States, actively serving in all levels of the military and are recognized in high levels of leadership and government."

Past study missions have included Supervisor Tom Ammiano, Community United Against Violence Executive Director Terry Person-Harris, former Ambassador James Hormel, and Thom Lynch, executive director of the LGBT Community Center.

"It is important for me to meet with people from other places and see the kind of work they are doing and build that connection in the international fight for gay rights we are all involved in," said Lynch, who was joined on his trip last June by City Attorney Dennis Herrera and Supervisor Fiona Ma. "The important thing from that trip - the Jewish council would not deny they have a certain bent on the issues - we did meet with people who had other views. We did meet with Palestinians and Muslim leaders in Is-

rael."

This year's delegation, which left today (Thursday, March 3) on a 10-day trip, includes Supervisor Bevan Dufty; Brian Cheu, executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action and a former executive director of the LGBT center; and Miguel Bustos, who unsuccessfully ran against Ammiano for supervisor last fall.

Dufy's inclusion on the trip, and a planned meeting between the delegation and organizers of the second World Pride, set to take place this August, is raising red flags for members of QUITI, who are asking LGBT people from around the world to boycott the event.

The first World Pride took place in 2000 in Rome and elicited worldwide media attention, especially after Vatican officials complained about the route of a planned Pride Parade during the event. This year's World Pride is already generating enormous media attention. As the organizers describe it, the event will "gather people from all over the world to bring a message that is needed throughout the Middle East and beyond: that human rights transcend cultural and ethnic boundaries, that our differences can be respected peacefully, and that love knows no borders. There is no better place in the world than Jerusalem to make that statement, and perhaps no city that needs to hear it more."

Porth said the council is helping to promote World Pride among groups in the Bay Area and hopes Dufy can assist in that effort once he returns from the trip. The delegation is expected to meet with leaders of Open House, Jerusalem's LGBT center that is the host organization for World Pride.

"It would be lovely if he helped be an ambassador for World Pride," she said. "It is going to a wonderful 10-day celebration this August. As a Jewish community we are very proud Israel is hosting it."

Local diplomacy

Before Duffy commits to playing such a role, Raphael hopes he will first meet with representatives of QUITI! who have called on the international gay community to boycott World Pride this year

and have launched a Web site, boycottworldpride.org to spread its message. According to a statement on the Web site, the protest is an extension of "the movement to boycott Israeli goods and to divest from Israel in protest of the ongoing occupation of Palestinian lands, the construction of the apartheid wall in the West Bank, and the destruction of Palestinian olive trees, homes, and villages. We believe that the goal of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer liberation is best served by supporting local community organizing while also supporting the liberation struggles of all oppressed peoples."

The statement goes on to say that "we are appalled that Inter-Pride chose Jerusalem as the site of the second World Pride event and is encouraging LGBTIQ people from all over the world to ignore the boycott and spend significant funds in Israel, bolstering its tourist economy and its disingenuous claims to be a 'free,' democratic, state."

The Israel-based radical queer group Black Laundry, while not supporting the boycott, is nevertheless discouraging people from attending the event. According to a statement by the group, while it trusts "the organizers and the activities of the Jerusalem Open-House, one of the only places where Palestinian gay men have any sort of visibility and community ... we don't actively encourage anyone to visit Israel to take part in World Pride events, or in any kind of global consumerist gay culture, but we will organize events and present radical alternatives to international queers who do decide to visit. We hope that queers coming to Jerusalem for World Pride will consider joining our activism against the occupation and for social justice in Israel and Palestine."

Here in San Francisco, Lynch said the center itself is discussing how it will be involved in World Pride this year.

"It's not an easy issue. We are planning on being involved in World Pride in some way," he said. "It is a powerful message. I don't think that because you go there you are supporting all of the policies of the Israelis and Palestinians."

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Politics

◀ page 9

only he is one of the state's most hard-working legislators, but also one of the most knowledgeable, capable of drafting legislation on a variety of diverse interests that affect California. Leno is long known for his civil rights legislation, such as the introduction of AB19, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, which was introduced in December.

He has now introduced AB1237, legislation that would ban civilians from buying Tasers and require law enforcement officers to write reports each time the stun guns are used. This will provide the sorely missing data on Tasers' safety and effectiveness that the industry seems unwilling to compile. News reports have detailed the deaths of some suspects in the custody of officers who used the Tasers on them.

Leno also has introduced AB1147, a bill that would allow hemp farming in California. In the past, this valuable crop had to be imported into the United States because the Drug Enforcement Administration has classified

hemp as a controlled substance despite the fact it has no psychoactive effect. The federal 9th Circuit Court ruled the DEA has no authority in this area. This could be a boon to California farmers and manufacturers because of its ease of cultivation and the incredible range of products that can be produced from hemp.

If you think you're having a bad week, just be thankful you're not embattled outgoing Secretary of State Kevin Shelley, who, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, had his state-issued personal digital assistant stolen from his home. It has been reported that the PDA contained fundraising and scheduling data - information that presumably could be used by individuals trying to embarrass Shelley or by investigators involved in the various probes that led him to tender his resignation. Shelley is expected to leave office Friday, March 4, a delay of several days from his earlier announced date of March 1. Governor Schwarzenegger has named former state Senator Bruce McPherson to the post, and the Legislature must confirm him. McPherson is generally viewed as a moderate Republican who used to represent the Santa Cruz area. The Log Cabin

Republicans praised his appointment when it was announced last month.

In closing, a fond farewell to Our Man Friday. **Wayne**, whatever you decide to do next will benefit from the same knowledge and determination that have made you such a positive force in the LGBT community. ▼

G. Stuart Flores is an openly gay San Francisco native. He works for the San Francisco District Attorney's office.

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Karel draws a crowd in the Castro

by Ed Walsh

It was an undercover sting in a gay bar that was played out on the Karel and Andrew show on KFI, Los Angeles' number one AM talk station. Charles Karel Bouley, known simply as "Karel" to his listeners, along with his life partner, Andrew Lee Howard, set it up on the one-year anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death. They put hidden microphones on a straight actor and sent him into a gay bar in Long Beach, California. Within 11 minutes, a man offered

to go home with the actor. The pair went to a hotel room where Karel and Andrew were waiting with radio microphones to question the gay man. They wanted to know, had the death of Matthew Shepard taught him nothing about getting into a car with strangers?

The theme of personal responsibility is one that has struck a cord among Karel's radio listeners and with fans and detractors of his columns in the *Advocate* and *Advocate.com*. Howard suffered from AIDS and died in 2001. Karel lost his job at KFI less than a

year later. After landing fill-in work at San Francisco's KGO-AM (810), Karel, 42, was given his own show on Saturday and Sunday nights from 7 to 10 p.m.

Last Friday, February 25, a standing room only crowd packed A Different Light bookstore in the Castro for a signing event for Karel's book, *You Can't Say That!* The store's 30-book inventory quickly sold out but Karel happily signed autographs and posed for pictures with those who missed out.

The book is a collection of essays reflecting his passionate in-your-face opinions on everything from politics to sex. Sometimes, those opinions have not been appreciated by his superiors. After Ronald Reagan's death last June, Karel played "Ding, Dong, the Witch is Dead" on his show, prompting a flurry of heated management discussions. Karel noted that he was "crucified" for it by other KGO hosts. Later, after watching an emotional Nancy Reagan at her husband's funeral, he wrote her a letter of apology and posted it on his KarelChannel.com Web site. Karel said Mrs. Reagan's reaction reminded him of his mother when his father died.

Karel is a frequent guest on cable news talk shows and has debated a number of representatives from the religious right, including onetime presidential candidate, the Reverend Pat Robertson. His topics are by no means limited to gay issues. When asked last year on CNN whether he was rattled



Ed Walsh

Author and radio show host Charles Karel Bouley at last week's book signing in the Castro.

by the latest Osama bin Laden tape, he quipped: "It doesn't rattle me. He seems to have a better recording deal than Britney Spears."

His witty, flamboyant style has won him admiration even from his political polar opposites. Conservative KSFO talk show host, David Gold, remarked to his listeners that although he couldn't disagree more with Karel, he appreciated his ability to put on an engaging show.

When the topic of *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* came up at last week's book signing, Karel said that he was offered a part in the series but turned it down because he didn't want to be part of a gay-centric program.

"Now I could kick myself," he added with a chuckle. "A paycheck's a paycheck."

Karel's universal appeal to many socioeconomic groups beyond the gay community was evidenced at the book signing that included every age group from a grade schooler to an elderly woman in a walker. Karel noted that he is most gratified by the number of people he's heard from who don't have any personal connection with a gay person. He said that many of those people have told him that they can identify with him for going through the same highs and lows he went through with his partner.

Karel said that he has traditionally

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Boykin brings skepticism of DL to SF

by Kevin Davis

In phone conversations from a North Carolina airport luggage carousel and an Atlanta hotel room, the country's leading black gay educator and activist Keith Boykin discussed his new book, *Beyond the Down Low*.

In his "book about lies, ones we tell ourselves and others," Boykin goes far beyond what J.L. King's book *On the Down Low* and the media have defined, based on circumstantial evidence, as the so-called trend of black gay closet cases infecting their female partners with HIV.

The hysterical media reports King's story, Boykin said, without challenging the logic behind his stories of a new mysterious underground lifestyle, exploiting black infighting by creating a "suspicious stereotypical image of black men as pathological liars satisfying their primitive sexual cravings by cheating on wives." Boykin sums up the media hype as echoing past portrayals of black people as hypersexual to justify slavery.

"There's absolutely no research," said Boykin. "We cannot explain who probably is on the down low. Every time I talk about it, I'm not going to sit here and lie. If there's no proof, it's irresponsible."

In the first month of what Boykin calls more mission than publicity, he visited eight East Coast cities, Milwaukee, Ann Arbor, and Stanford; did 12 radio shows; and numerous TV and



Author Keith Boykin

and which the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* and *Washington Post* both praised.

"People are tired of the lies and nonsense. They want proof," Boykin said.

Last weekend at a State of the Black Union event with leaders like Julian Bond and Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles), Louis Farrakhan called Boykin "part of the family," and committed to include an LGBT contingent in next year's 10th anniversary Million Man March.

"It was a dramatic opportunity," said Boykin, 39, who often appears on CNN, Fox News, and National Public Radio. "Who would imagine a black gay activist hugging the leader of the Nation of Islam? It's a breakthrough."

In his book's multifaceted argument woven with biographical anecdotes, Boykin challenges assumptions, discusses education and love as a solution to distrust and denial among black couples, and offers ways to communicate culturally relevant prevention messages.

Boykin did his homework, studying in-depth the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's HIV and behavioral statistics, thoroughly eviscerating inconsistencies in King's book, faulting King's game of stating meaningless generalizations, and clues so broad that anything a man does signals his DLness. (Example: "look in their eyes").

Boykin argues that King created the perfect monster, a dangerous clique who are by definition unidentifiable, thus dividing the

black community into a battle of the sexes, encouraging women victims to hunt for DL villains, and distracting the public's attention from the need to practice personal responsibility.

Boykin's most damaging evidence to refute King's theory is that out of 7,000 black female AIDS cases in 2003, only 118 reported sex with a bisexual male as the exposure method. He also wrote that in the 1990s black heterosexual female AIDS cases actually fell, and black women make up 18 percent of new AIDS cases, not 68 percent, as is commonly re-

ported.

"The down low is just about infidelity, nothing new. We need more focus, to show that there is no clear definition, that it's not new and it's not just a black thing, or just a gay thing. It expands the definition, the sloppiness with which we use the term," he said.

Boykin, who was an outspoken gay voice in the Clinton administration, left D.C. when concurrently, Clinton, caving in to right wing pressure, fired then-Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders for calling masturbation healthy, and

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Philadelphia's Liberty Bell Center is a top attraction and one of many destinations promoted to gay travelers.

by Tyson Gillfillan

For many, Philadelphia conjures up images of carriages on cobblestones, a Quaker Oats man in front of the Liberty Bell, late night dining on greasy cheesesteaks, and Rocky Balboa shouting for Adrian. But since last year, the tourism bureau has been promoting another image to the public — marketing the city as a gay and lesbian travel destination.

Hosting large-scale public events and undertaking major international publicity efforts, Philadelphia hopes to shed its image as the Northeast's forgotten meat sandwiched between Washington D.C. and New York.

A slice of history

Founded more than 300 years ago, Philadelphia has long attracted visitors interested in experiencing a slice of American history. With long lines of tourists in front of such venerable landmarks as Independence Hall, the Betsy Ross House, and the Liberty Bell, this connection to the past continues to be a major draw.

What many lesbian and gay travelers may not realize, however, is that Philadelphia ranks among cities like San Francisco and New York in historical significance to the gay rights movement in America. Queer icons including Daughters of Bilitis founder Barbara Gittings, blues singer Bessie Smith, 19th century painter Thomas Eakins, and poet Walt Whitman have called Philly home. Thousands of visitors

each year follow in Oscar Wilde's footsteps, making the pilgrimage across the Delaware River to Whitman's Camden, New Jersey home, which is now a museum.

The city also boasts the very first march for gay independence, on July 4, 1965 at Independence Hall, four years before Manhattan's Stonewall riots. These protests continued annually until 1969, and this year's Equality Forum 2005 celebrates the 40th anniversary of this historic event (see "When to Visit").

Reaching out

Last year the Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation undertook one of the first publicity campaigns of any significance aimed at the LGBT traveler called "Philadelphia — Get Your History Straight and Your Nightlife Gay." The group created a marketing blitz with advertisements in major national and international media, and even produced a gay-themed television commercial.

According to gay marketing director Jeff Guaracino, the campaign has generated more than \$10 mil-

lion in free publicity, with mentions in the *New York Times*, VH-1, *The Daily Show with John Stewart*, and even a question on *The Hollywood Squares*. Recently, the campaign won an international travel marketing award, beating over 1,000 entries including the Las Vegas "What Happens Here, Stays Here" promotion.

The group has developed a downloadable LGBT trip planner, and has enlisted dozens of area hotels in creating unique welcome packets just for queer travelers.

Whether these efforts are actually working remains to be seen. According to Guaracino, they are currently undertaking benchmark research to identify where and how long LGBT travelers are staying, where they are shopping and dining, attractions they are visiting, all to prove that the pink travel dollar is an economic force to be courted. While the data is not yet in, Guaracino said early indications are promising.

Local gay business owners have not reported any noticeable increase in gay visitors, but appreciate the campaign.

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When to visit

Winter-phobes may wish to delay visiting until the spring or summer, to avoid the Northeast's raw weather. Fortunately, Philadelphia has a number of featured celebrations to attract LGBT travelers during more clement months.

Equality Forum 2005, April 25 — May 1 will attract gay and lesbian visitors from around the world as Philadelphia pays homage to the 40th anniversary of the first protest for gay equality on American soil. The celebration will overtake Independence Mall and feature over 70 programs and special events, including a ceremony to honor 40 "community heroes" who have contributed to LGBT equality for the past 40 years. San Francisco activists Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin are among the honorees. As part of the forum, each state will have a designated "headquarters" hotel, and will feature special parties and local beneficiaries. California will be represented by Equality California, with a reception at gay club Bump on Saturday, April 30. For more information, visit www.equalityforum.org or call (215) 732-3378.

July 4, 2005 The "seat of independence," this summer Philadelphia will celebrate American's birth with a "Philadelphia Freedom" concert on Independence Parkway featuring headline artist Sir Elton John. The July Fourth concert will be free, and organizers expect to draw 1.5 million visitors and raise more than \$2 million to fight HIV/AIDS. Fireworks and a "Philadelphia Freedom Ball" will follow the concert. Visit www.phillyfreedom.org or call 800-917-4389 for more information and Freedom Ball ticketing information.

Philadelphia Freedom Hotel Packages. Before traveling to Philadelphia, visitors are encouraged to visit the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation's Web site at www.gophila.com/gay to learn about special hotel packages, download a "gay and lesbian trip planner," and learn about events and attractions of interest to the LGBT community. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Israel

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Raphael said she hopes Dufty has a chance to meet with people from Black Laundry and a new Palestinian lesbian and biwomen group called Aswat while on his trip.

"I think that when Bevan Dufty is going to go on this trip—which we would really discourage—when he returns he would also meet with us and that if he is going to do events around helping World Pride to ensure other perspectives are included in those events and that we have a dialogue about what we know," she said. "It is really important if Bevan is going to go that he is representing those interests over there and meeting with people who share those interests."

In an interview before he left, Dufty said he had requested to meet with gay Palestinian leaders. While he is mindful some people may question his involvement on a trip sponsored by a pro-Israel organization, nevertheless Dufty said he sees the visit as only being beneficial in the end.

"I recognize the complexity and see the need for a Palestinian state. At the same time my upbringing made an indelible impression on me of the reality of anti-Semitism in the world and the threats that Israel has faced since its inception," said Dufty, who is Jewish. "I am not a diplomat. I am a local official. I hope that the trip will deepen my understanding of contemporary issues and help me be more thoughtful when people raise questions in a local context. I think that means understanding varied perspectives."

It will be Dufty's second visit to Israel; he first traveled to the country in 1982 as part of a delegation of congressional staffers. His mother, Maely Daniele Dufty, was Jewish and grew up in Czechoslovakia while his father, William Dufty, converted to Judaism before he was born.

His mother survived the Nazi invasion of her homeland during World War II and later fled to America while one of her brothers escaped to Latin America. Dufty's maternal grandmother is buried in Israel.

"Part of who I am is being a Jew and I am interested in returning to Israel and looking at the differences in life in Israel," said Dufty. "Moreover, I see this as a more hopeful time for the Middle East. In recent years the news has been very discouraging and unending on all sides; it has been really disheartening. I am hopeful that things may move in a better direction. I am interested in what are the perceptions of the people who live in Israel."

Bustos also said his main interest in going on the trip is to learn from everyday people in Israel what they would like to see happen now that the peace effort has been revived.

"One thing that was made very clear is this is not about cheerleading for Israel. They proactively went and sought after folks from the other side and Palestinian people for us to talk to and ask questions," said Bustos. "We need to create more understanding and find common ground. People digging in their heels really does nothing for the cause. It just perpetuates tension and prolongs the outcome of finding resolution."

Cheu said he hopes to explore connections between the Chinese and Jewish communities there.

"For us there is some interesting cultural linkages that aren't

necessarily apparent, which I want to dig into a little bit deeper," he said.

Raphael said she hopes Dufty and the delegation have a chance to see what construction of the security wall has done to the Palestinian people.

"If they are getting to see all of that, I would say great. But if not, and I have a feeling that they are not, then I would say no matter how broad a range of perspectives you seem to be getting, there are a huge range they are not," she said.

For security purposes, the delegation will only be traveling throughout Israel, accompanied by a security detail, and will not enter into the Palestinian territories, said Porth. Though she said the group has been working to set up a meeting between the delegation and gay Palestinians.

"This is probably one of the most eye-opening parts of the trip for many gay and lesbian community leaders, to understand what it means to be gay in Palestine. You either live in the closet for fear of your life as a Palestinian or you live out of the closet in Israel and you don't live among your community and family. It is a terribly painful decision," said Porth. ▼

Leland Yee

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flag at Harvey Milk Plaza. "For all those individuals who don't have the same protections as I do, it puts a quieting voice on the LGBT community in getting involved in politics. We want them to participate and I hope this bill will help."

The bill, AB866, is the first pro-gay bill to be authored by Yee, who serves as the Assembly's speaker pro tem and was elected to his District 12 Assembly seat in 2002. A former San Francisco supervisor, Yee has already announced he plans to run for the state Senate seat now held by Jackie Speier (D-Hillsborough), who will be termed out next year and is planning to run for lieutenant governor.

Also expected to launch campaigns for Speier's seat are San Mateo County Supervisor Mike Nevin and former state Assemblyman Louis J. Papan. All three are Democrats, and whoever wins the primary in June 2006 is almost assured of winning the general election in November.

Due to redistricting of the Senate seat, its boundary runs down the middle of Castro Street and gay voters could help swing the election to one of the candidates.

To some, Yee's move to introduce the bill could be viewed as pandering for the gay vote.

Asked about such impressions, Yee replied that while "clearly, people can make those conclusions" his record proves otherwise. Since his time on the city's Board of Education, Yee has a track record of supporting gay issues.

He supported offering counseling for gay kids while a school board member, something "I took quite a beating for from the Chinese community," said Yee. As a supervisor, he voted for the city's historic domestic partnership measures, and while in the Assembly, he has had a 100 percent voting record each year for gay bills introduced in the Legislature.

He is a coauthor and supporter of Assemblyman Mark Leno's (D-San Francisco) gay marriage bill this year (and last year), and is expected to play a key role in persuading the Legislature's Asian Caucus to support the bill. For his support on gay rights, Yee has been nominated this year for the Lambda Letters Project's Profiles in Courage Award.

Adam Keigwin, an aide to Yee, said despite his record, the gay community has an impression that Yee has not been as strong of a supporter as other local politi-

cians. Keigwin suggested in an e-mail that it is "likely due to some racism. People often assume because of his base being Asian that he doesn't support the LGBT community, but in fact he always has."

Representing the city's more conservative districts, Yee's support for gay rights could come back to haunt him in the Senate race. As Keigwin pointed out, Yee's base is the Chinese community, "many of which are not supportive of his stance or equal rights for all. He has and will continue to stand up against his own natural base on this issue and that deserves to be credited."

Yee very well could face an antigay whisper campaign directed at him during his bid for the Senate. Mindful of such a possibility, the Center for Asian American Advocacy and Chinese for Affirmative Action have endorsed Yee's bill to curb the use of antigay rhetoric in campaigns.

"We are aware that sometimes the more conservative aspects of the Asian American community speak up when a politician from the API community sponsors a bill like this. We wanted to make sure our board and members are fully in support of this," said Brian Cheu, executive director of the two groups. ▼

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Retroviral

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of the virus used the CCR5 coreceptor to enter cells and 40 percent could use either CCR5 or the CXCR4 coreceptor. The latter variant is rarely transmitted sexually. It is characteristic of late stage disease and rapid decline in health.

He feared the possible public health implications of these findings and notified New York City Public Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas R. Frieden. The ensuing news conference set off a frenzy of media coverage.

The other presenters at the special session saw the case as rare and worthy of investigation but not cause for a public warning. They believe the rapid progression was more likely the result of factors unique to the patient's genetics and health, not the virus. Ongoing contact tracing has yet to find evidence of another person infected with a similar virus.

Stephen Gange is the primary statistician for the ongoing MACS and WIHS HIV cohort studies. The first has followed gay men since 1984; the second primarily minority women since 1994. More than 10,000 participants in the two cohorts are examined and their blood is drawn every six months.

Gange said data from the cohorts and from computer modeling indicate that seven in 10,000 of those infected with HIV will progress to AIDS within the first six months. A similar pattern was seen in the U.S. military cohort of about 4,500 people.

Gange pointed to two examples within the MACS cohort

where rapidly progressing patients had been infected with a dual tropic CCR5/CXCR4 virus.

Matthew Dolan offered a snapshot of the impact of host genetic variations on disease progression drawn from the military's HIV program. He concluded, "While therapy has been very beneficial, it still does not overcome the genetic bias that people go into the battle with HIV with."

A major point in Ho's case is that the virus in the newly infected patient is resistant to all three classes of anti-HIV drugs. But another study at the conference by a colleague showed that Aaron Diamond had detected transmission of similar resistance in at least a dozen patients, dating back as early as 1999.

The frequency of transmission of multiple drug resistant virus was explored by Andrew Leigh Brown, a professor at the University of Edinburgh. He pointed to one study suggesting, "The prevalence did increase, has peaked, and is declining." He reminded the audience, "Drug resistant virus is frequently less fit than drug susceptible virus" and often is more difficult to transmit.

The former director of HIV prevention programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Harold Jaffe, reminded the audience that researchers don't know when the patient in question was infected, who infected him, or if he has infected others.

Moving on to the broader question of HIV prevention Jaffe said, "If lack of fear [of HIV] has really become a driver of the epidemic, we have to ask ourselves, should cases like this be used to scare people at risk? I personally don't think so."

Much of the spirited questioning from the floor was directed to Ho. He said their limited and incomplete genetic analysis reveals "a swarm of highly related viruses," though he conceded it was possible that the virus was a product of recombination or secondary infection rather than a single infection.

He did not know if the patient might have injected methamphetamine. Sharing a syringe in injecting meth might help explain the transmission.

"We have to point the finger at the people who have been trying to destroy HIV prevention," said Gregg Gonsalves, with the Gay Men's Health Crisis. He decried attacks from the right wing and "chronic underfunding" of CDC HIV prevention programs as having contributed to this infection.

Community response

"There is nothing really dramatically new about this virus," Stephen Boswell, director of Fenway Community Health, said at a community news conference the next morning. "If we reacted every time we saw this virus, there would have literally been thousands of press conferences around the world." Boswell is also a professor at Harvard Medical School.

"To take a single case, a case where there is no evidence that this virus has been transmitted, and call a press conference, is not a responsible approach to take," he said, adding that he fears that this will only serve to drive people underground and not seek out care.

Dr. Howard Grossman criticized the lack of local physician involvement in the initial decision to publicize this case. "We were

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Mass. court to hear challenge to 1913 law

by Lisa Keen

The supreme court of Massachusetts has agreed to hear arguments later this year on whether the state has a right to bar out-of-state gay couples from obtaining marriage licenses.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court is the same court that ruled in November 2003 that the state's constitution requires that same-sex couples be allowed to obtain marriage licenses the same as heterosexual couples. In May 2004, the court's order in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health* went into effect and, since then, more than 4,200 same-sex couples have married in Massachusetts.

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, the law group which won the *Goodridge* decision, filed another lawsuit — this one on behalf of out-of-state couples. The lawsuit, *Cote-Whitacre v. Department of Health*, argued that state officials created a "list of impediments" to marriage that excluded all out-of-state same-sex couples.

Specifically, GLAD argued, the state dusted off a law from 1913 that states "No marriage shall be contracted in this commonwealth by a party residing and intending to continue to reside in another jurisdiction if such marriage would be void if contracted in such other jurisdiction, and every marriage contracted in this commonwealth in violation hereof shall be null and void."

State officials cited existence of the law to ban all out-of-state same-sex couples from marrying in Massachusetts, even those from states that have not adopted any form of same-sex marriage ban.

GLAD's lawsuit argues that the state's application of the 1913 law violates the state and U.S. constitutions and it asks the court to issue an injunction to stop the state from barring marriage licenses to otherwise qualified out-of-state same-sex couples.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of eight same-sex couples from six neighboring states. The case will be heard in conjunction with a similar lawsuit brought by 13 town clerks, *Johnstone v. Reilly*, which notes that, for many decades, the law was not enforced against out-of-state couples.

Last August, a superior court judge refused to issue the injunction but did not rule on the merits of the lawsuits. The state's highest court agreed to take the cases without waiting for them to go through an intermediate appeals court.

The state supreme court this week agreed to a briefing schedule and GLAD legal director Gary Buseck said oral arguments will probably take place after August.

"We think we have very strong arguments in challenging the application of the 1913 law against out-of-state same-sex couples," said Buseck. "In some ways, they boil down to the notion that the constitutional rights granted in *Goodridge* cannot be denied to either residents or non-residents as state officials have the obligation to carry *Goodridge* into effect for everyone appropriately here in the Commonwealth. And the administration [of Republican Governor Mitt Romney] cannot use this old 1913 law to target same-sex cou-

ples because it serves their discriminatory purposes."

Meanwhile, GLAD is preparing to go before the state supreme court in April in yet another same-sex marriage lawsuit — this one brought by the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts. The action league argues that the court should have delayed enactment of its original marriage decision in the *Goodridge* case until the state legislature had an opportunity to vote on putting a constitutional ban before voters in November 2006.

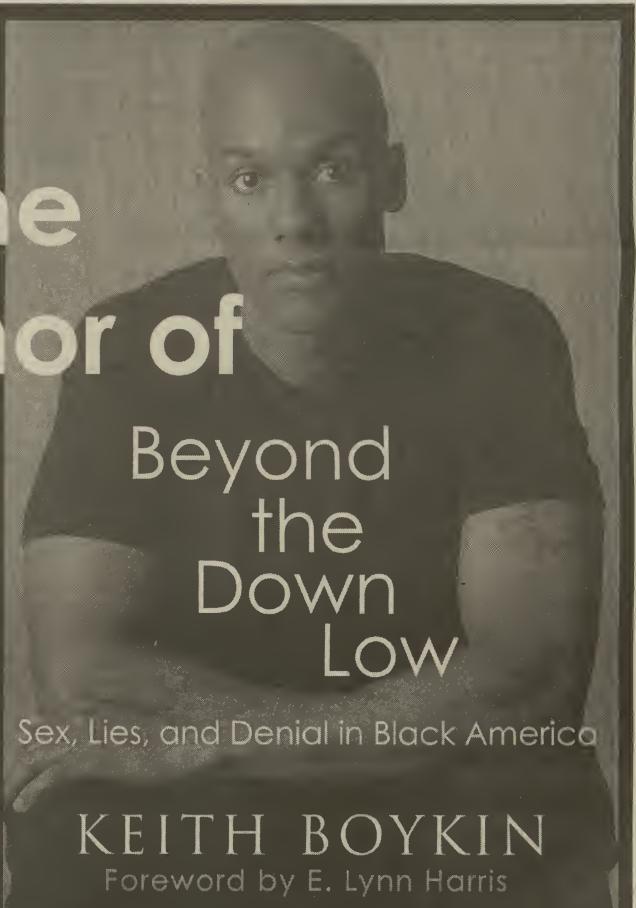
For its part, the state legislature has postponed any action on the proposed constitutional ban until this fall. The legislature approved an amendment last year, but it must approve the same amendment again this year. If it does, that amendment then goes to voters in November 2006. The delay in addressing the constitutional ban, which most political ob-

servers say give an advantage to supporters of same-sex marriage, was a decision of Senate President Robert Travaglini (D). Although he did not publicly explain his decision, reports indicate he wanted to give the House time to reorganize itself since the resignation of antigay House Speaker Tom Finneran (D). Meanwhile, the *Boston Globe* reported recently that its analysis of the new House and Senate makeup since last fall's elections suggest that supporters of gay marriage appear to be gaining ground.

And as the battle for marriage trudges on in Massachusetts, the battle is in its early stages in neighboring Connecticut. There, GLAD has filed a lawsuit similar to *Goodridge*, but with seven Connecticut couples. The case is expected to take at least two years before a decision can be rendered by the Connecticut Supreme Court. ▼

Meet the Author of

Born on the anniversary of Dr. King's famous March on Washington, Keith Boykin has become one of the nation's leading commentators on race, sexuality and politics. A former White House aide to President Clinton, Keith is also a New York Times best selling author, reality television star, lawyer, educator and activist.



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Gay panic

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blames a crime victim for inviting assault or murder. The crime victims targeted by the defense are predominately male or transgender, and the suspects claiming gay panic are almost always boys and men, whose heterosexuality is assumed to be easily threatened.

In common use for more than 50 years, the defense is built around the premise that a crime victim made a sexual or romantic pass – or otherwise expressed interest or posed a sexual threat – provoking a violent reaction from the suspect on trial.

The underlying assumption, of course, is that attention from a perceived gay or transgender person would warrant an extreme response. While the defense strategy, according to conference panelists, is often not successful in securing acquittals, it is notoriously successful at reducing and stalling convictions and sentences in many otherwise open-and-shut cases, from the *Jenny Jones* murder trial – where killer Jonathan Schmitz admittedly premeditated the shooting of Scott Amedure in Orion Township, Michigan but received only a second-degree murder conviction for the reported “humiliation” he suffered by Amedure’s professed crush during the

taping of the talk show; to the recent Gwen Araujo case in Newark, California, where all three men on trial for murder admitted a role in the transgender teenager’s beating, torture, and killing but argued a “gay panic” reaction which resulted in a mistrial (the case is scheduled to be re-tried in May).

Last week’s conference, held at the Sheraton Midtown Atlanta hotel, included lectures, panel discussions, and instructional sessions. The conference also featured the “Ahmed Yusef Dabarran Awards Banquet,” named for a Fulton County assistant district attorney who was brutally murdered in May 2001 and whose killer successfully used a gay panic defense to secure an acquittal. Roderique Reshad Reed maintained that his attack against Dabarran was in self defense against an alleged forced sexual encounter, despite expert medical testimony that Dabarran was asleep when he was struck in the head over a dozen times with a pot. Dabarran was a colleague of many in attendance, and he was the inspiration for the creation of the conference.

“It’s personal,” Howard explained, detailing how the Cobb County prosecutor’s office seemed to work more in conjunction with the defense than it did on behalf of Dabarran. The conference, in response, educated everyone from police to advocates to the media to attorneys on how to recognize a potential gay panic case and how to address it.

From the moment a crime is reported, it is important, noted panelists, that police officers and investigators be aware of the signs of a potential antigay attack, even if local laws do not include recognition of hate crimes.

Last Thursday’s panels featured Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington, who has instituted LGBT liaison programs in police departments nationwide; Vernon M. Keenan, director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Sheryl Robinson, former president of the National Black Prosecutors Association; Sergeant Connie Locke, LGBT liaison to the Atlanta Police Department; and other attorneys, advocates, and officers.

Policies and procedures must be established by law enforcement to thoroughly document victims’ stories in a way that does not out them or make assumptions about their sexualities or behaviors, noted panelists. Cultural history must be kept in mind – including the historically tense relationship between law enforcement and the LGBT community. Rather than asking victims if they think it was a biased attack, asking for the exact words of the perpetrator will help to identify antigay motives, regardless of the victim’s identity, they said.

Other presentations on Thursday featured Gaitlin; Fulton County special programs manager and former CNN anchor Lyn Vaughn, who created a video documenting gay panic cases; Georgia state Representative Karla Lea Drenner (D); and Hector Vargas, southern regional director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Widespread panic

An important point made by conference presenters was that the gay panic defense is often used where there was no gay person or romantic situation involved in the crime at all.

Oftentimes, gay panic is used during so-called smoking gun cases because it is the suspect’s single remaining hope when it comes to defeating unrelated criminal charges. Without a credible or valid legal defense for a crime, the only other option is to

should not mitigate the crime.

A mock jury was assembled for demonstrating how certain questions and answers can reveal biases during jury selection. If there is a juror who is a fervent gay rights supporter, said prosecutors, then the defense will eliminate that person. However, prosecutors should then “use that juror,” they said, and get that person to talk to the rest of the pool about why gay people’s lives are important.

Sheila Ross, executive assistant district attorney for Fulton County, said that opening and closing arguments are key to winning a case, especially if the victim evidently did make a sexual advance or had a pattern of behavior that the defense could use to put the victim on trial.

“If you have issues in your case, you must tell the jury about it, and you must tell them first. The last thing you want is for the defense to define that for you,” said Ross, who added that a prosecutor’s comfort level is also important, as is knowledge of local and applicable laws around mitigating factors like self defense, which often contain words like “reasonable.”

“Reasonable means every single person in this room would have done the exact same thing,” she said. “It is not defined by a defendant’s state of mind.”

In classic gay panic cases, panelists advocated that prosecutors acknowledge jurors’ discomfort with certain sexual situations, but follow up by making jurors realize that they have been able to cope with their discomfort in ways that did not involve violence.

The seminars wrapped up with a political tinge as Air America’s Maddow moderated a town hall meeting on how societal attitudes and antigay laws help to enforce hate crimes and the use of gay panic. Getting liberals and progressives to talk about gay rights, she said, was an important part of social justice.

“The right is very comfortable taking about gays. They’ll bring it up for no reason at all, particularly when they have nothing else to say,” said Maddow. “On the left, the people who support gay rights are very cagey about bringing it up ... and it’s working to keep the right wing in power.”

On Friday night, the Dabarran Award was presented to O’Malley for his outspoken activism on behalf of Shepard and antigay crime victims everywhere. Earlier that day, O’Malley described how the Shepard case changed his attitudes toward gay people, but that much work needs to be done at the law enforcement level.

At a training he conducted for California police officers, O’Malley said, he was not well received, and when he exited the seminar room he encountered a group of officers speculating that he, too, was a “fag.”

“And I got to thinking, before the Matt Shepard case, those kinds of words and phrases rolled off my tongue as easily as ‘I love you’ did to my kids,” recalled O’Malley. “In 1998 I was an extremely biased and prejudiced individual when it came to matters of sexual orientation ... I really missed out on a lot of gay friends because I locked out the gay community. I almost feel hypocritical to speak because of the difference in my attitude.”

“Defeating the Gay Panic Defense” laid the groundwork for the future, agreed organizers. Another conference will be planned within the next two years, said Howard, and the conferences will continue to be held “until we don’t need to hold them anymore.” ▼



The Triangle Foundation’s Jeffrey Montgomery

“appeal to homophobic notions which invite judgment of the victim,” said the Triangle Foundation’s Montgomery.

Montgomery, an authority on gay panic defense cases, detailed the story of Alex Charles, a 15-year-old boy from Flat Rock, Michigan, who was killed by 16-year-old Justin Wallace in 1999.

Charles, said Montgomery, was not gay. Charles had angered Wallace by warning his girlfriend about his behavior, and in retaliation, Wallace lured him to a secluded spot under the guise of smoking a joint, then shot him in the head. Only at trial did Wallace concoct a gay panic defense, claiming that Charles had made a pass at him. The jury in turn found him guilty only of manslaughter. The juror holds out for a murder conviction told the media it should have been a “slam-dunk” case but they had been threatened into backing down by other jurors who believed Wallace had merely “killed a fag.”

Similarly, at a Friday panel dealing with trial tactics, Howard said that his office’s last few gay panic cases did not involve gay people at all.

“In many of these cases it doesn’t have anything to do with sexuality in the first place,” said Howard.

In one simple armed robbery case, he said, the gay panic defense was invoked out of nowhere.

“What they’re saying is, ‘Let me go,’” said Howard. Defense attorneys are not even pursuing a legal reason for a lesser charge or conviction, said Howard, but rather “they are bypassing that and simply going directly to the prejudice of the jurors.”

And that is the main obstacle for prosecutors when it comes to the gay panic defense; it is a phenomenon which, by all relevant standards, is imaginary. Because gay panic is not a legally recognized defense or clinically diagnosed condition, there are few ways to legally challenge it, said Howard.

Even if judges disallow such defenses, attorneys and suspects will introduce gay panic into the courtrooms “just to get it out there, because you can’t un-ring the bell,” said Howard.

Panelists noted that while defense attorneys are famous for bringing in experts to validate the gay panic defense, prosecutors rarely bring in their own experts to refute these extreme reactions.

Friday’s courtroom-related presentations featured Thomas Charron, executive director of the National District Attorneys Association; Spencer Lawton, DA of Savannah, Georgia; and Fulton County Superior Court Judge Stephanie B. Manis, among others. Panelists offered several pieces of advice for combating gay panic during trial, including pointing out to jurors that they will not receive court instructions on the defense, because it doesn’t exist as a mitigating factor, and therefore,



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OBITUARIES

Larry Crump



The Party's over. Our friend Larry passed away unexpectedly in Palm Springs on February 21, 2005, after a brief battle with cancer at the age of 68. Larry worked for many years at Kaiser Hospital.

manente in the Bay Area as a Laboratory Technician and made his home in San Bruno. Well known on the Castro bar scene, especially in the halcyon days of the Pendulum, Larry retired to his little hacienda in Palm Springs in 1998. Being a great mixer (with a "fabulous" personality) and an endlessly energetic party animal, Larry was always out and about in the Palm Springs gay scene and known and loved by many locals. Some of us spent many a great time as Larry's houseguests, taking in the Palm Springs bars and restaurants and romping through the Halloween, New Year and Gay Pride Holiday weekend. In recent years Larry worked part time at the Desert Regional Hospital to help them cover a lack of qualified technicians in the Desert Area, but his great love was travel — with close friend Dan to San Diego, visits to Australia, catching up with long-time friend Bernd in Germany (where he had been stationed during military service and where he spoke German fluently), cruising the high seas on board ship or any other affordable adventure on offer. He was a regular visitor to San Francisco and caught up with his many old friends at the Twin Peaks, The Pendulum, and other local old-timer venues. You were very special, Larry, and we'll miss you a lot.

Philadelphia

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"It's wonderful to have a campaign so supportive of us," said bookstore owner Ed Hерmane of Giovanni's Room. "I think it does help draw people, but just as importantly it helps the local community ... lets us know that they support us." One of the country's oldest and best-stocked LGBT bookstores, Giovanni's Room is often a tourism destination in and of itself.

Where to stay, what to do

Despite being the country's fifth largest city, Philadelphia is supremely walkable, like San Francisco without the hills. As most residents and visitors will attest, this city with more than three centuries of history boasts some of the most interestingly eclectic architecture in the nation. The best way to experience it is on foot, from the modern high-rises to the incredible Beaux-Arts City Hall.

In addition to the historical attractions, Philadelphia boasts a number of cultural draws including the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, a number of theaters, and several world-class art museums. The Philadelphia Museum of Art houses Eakins's portrait of Whitman, and the Museum of American Art features a special collection devoted to Eakins's often homoerotic paintings.

More than 30 hotels have signed on with the gay tourism program, offering a "Freedom Package" including accommodations, a gay welcome packet and property-specific amenities. In order to sign on, each property must prove to the tourism caucus that they are gay-friendly. A great choice is the Alexander Inn, Philadelphia's only gay-owned and operated boutique hotel located in the heart of what locals affectionately call "the gayborhood." For travelers who are loyal to hotel rewards programs, select area Marriotts, Hiltons, and Starwood properties also participate.

The city promotes itself as a world-class dining destination, although Bay Area foodies might be disappointed. Friendly area restaurants include the kitschy "El Vez" (complete with Mexican Elvis im-

Tom Henderson



Tom Henderson, president of the San Jose/Mid-Peninsula chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) since 2000, died February 14, 2005, in Stanford Hospital.

He was 73 and had long been a fighter for lesbian and gay equality. Tom and his wife Mitzi got active in PFLAG in 1983, five years after their son Jamie came out to them. Both immediately got involved in the local chapter and then the national organization as activists and fundraisers. Mitzi later went on to become national president of PFLAG from 1992 to 1996.

Conservative in appearance and demeanor, Tom delighted each June in marching up Market Street with the PFLAG contingent in San Francisco's Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade as well as working tirelessly at the PFLAG booth giving advice and encouragement to parents who had concerns for their gay and lesbian children.

He wore his PFLAG lapel pin and "honorary lesbian" pin everywhere. On many occasions when a colleague told an anti-gay joke, Tom bluntly informed the man that he was the father of a gay son and did not appreciate anti-gay banter. He also promoted the role of gays and lesbians in his corporate and non-profit work.

Tom was long active in the YMCA. He was chair of the national board of directors of the YMCA USA from 2000 to 2002, and served on numer-

ous national committees and the board of the Mid-Peninsula Y. He was very proud of his efforts to sustain the Jerusalem YMCA, one of the few facilities in Israel that serves Muslims, Christians and Jews.

Born in Chicago in 1931, Tom grew up in Winona, Minnesota and earned degrees in civil engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

His career took him into construction where he rose to become chief executive officer of the Guy F. Atkinson Co., the contractor who built the Oakland Coliseum and other Bay Area projects.

After he retired from Atkinson, Tom became interim president of the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, and served on the school's board for eleven years.

Tom is survived by his wife Mitzi, sons Alec and Jamie, daughters Elizabeth and Celia, and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on March 5 at 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto. The family asks that donations be made in Tom's honor to the San Jose/Mid-Peninsula chapter of PFLAG.

John Maley



On March 3rd, 2004, one year ago, John Maley passed away peacefully in his sleep. John was born July 27, 1954 in Richmond, California, to Edward and Janice Maley. Brother to Evelyn Maley, Irene

personator,) and the stylish Bump, which features an impressive martini menu. No trip to Philly would be complete without an authentic Philadelphia cheesesteak, best eaten after a cocktail or two.

For nightlife, Philadelphia offers about a dozen gay and lesbian bars and clubs, most located in the gayborhood, including lesbian spot Sister's, leather bar The Bike Stop, and the ever popular Woody's, which draws a friendly, mixed, and diverse crowd to its multi-level bar and dance floor. Philadelphia also has a sprawling dance complex, Shampoo, featur-

ing drag performances and go-go boys on gay Friday nights. Travelers seeking a little more excitement can take comfort in the fact that New York's Penn Station is only 90 minutes away by train.

All in all, the "City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection" offers a nice destination for gay and lesbian travelers. While there is much to see and do, city promoters agree that it is mostly a comfortable "weekend spot." Unless there is a major event occurring, savvy travelers may want to include it as part of a larger trip to New York or D.C. ▼

JOHN CHARLES LAWVER In Loving Memory of...



John Charles Lawver, born November 20, 1955, passed away on Sunday, February 20, 2005, struck down by a very aggressive form of lymphoma. He died peacefully in his home, in the company of his family and friends and surrounded by the things that he loved.

John was raised in a small town in central Pennsylvania. After high school, he joined the Air Force, and was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C., and then Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. When he left the military, John made his career in hospital supply management, and worked in hospitals throughout central California and the Bay Area. John chose to make his home in San Francisco, but he never forgot his rural upbringing. He displayed an amazing talent for nurturing both plants and animals, and he never lost his love for horses, cows, and John Deere tractors. John was very generous with his spare time, and worked as a volunteer in the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park, for Project Open Hand, and in the Mission Dolores Cemetery Garden. John was always physically active. He loved to hike in the country, and to go the gym. He was disciplined, courageous, and had amazing strength of character. Ten years ago, when he was diagnosed with AIDS, he fought his way back from death's door, and managed the disease with great success until the cancer overtook him. He also volunteered for innumerable studies to further the cause of AIDS research.

John is survived by his parents, Ken and Letty Lawver of McClure Pennsylvania, two sisters, Kathy Boop of Millmont, Pennsylvania and Cindy Garrison of Beaver Springs, Pennsylvania, a brother, Jim Lawver of Middleburg, Pennsylvania, 5 nephews, 2 nieces, 4 great nephews and 8 great nieces.

John also leaves behind his "San Francisco family," whose lives were so enriched by his kind and joyous spirit. His long-time friend, Marc Taylor and the Taylor family, and his loving friends—Bill Wannamaker, Mary and Sam Chavez, Michael Morales, Melani and Joan Allen, Nadine and Mark Parsons, Ed, Shilo, Leah and Leonard Schummer, Jacky, Randy and Gina Sarti, Kathy Finney, Ray Jones and the many others who loved John so very much.

John Lawver was a beautiful, intelligent, sensitive, caring and loving individual, and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

A memorial will be held for John in the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park at 2:00 PM on Saturday, March 19, 2005.

Donations can be made in his name to Project Open Hand.

Brossard, Carol Smith and Carl Maley (preceding John in death). During John's life he was successful as a model, heading cosmetic departments, hair designs for the stars at Oray's in West Hollywood, and many other ventures. John lived a dream life with Sylvester (even appearing on album covers); John enjoyed traveling, especially Hawaii, a religious experience for John.

John's friends speak of how hospitable he was and his honesty. His infectious laugh that filled the room. His dedication to family and friends. His love of God and his routines of waking up to the daily word, a cup of coffee (or beer), Regis and Cathy (or whomever her replacement was), and of course Bob Barker and "The Price is Right." After that was free for the day. Everyone who was a part of John's life was truly blessed. We miss you!

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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

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Border crossings

by Jim Provenzano

What effect will the Bush administration's policies have on attendance at Chicago's Gay Games VII and Montreal's OutGames?

Travelers to the United States are facing unparalleled scrutiny at customs and in airports, which may justify specific concerns from GLBT athletes.

For example, since January 4, 2004, the Department of Homeland Security has required most visitors traveling on visas to the United States to have two fingerprints scanned by an inkless device and a digital photograph taken by immigration officials upon entry at U.S. airports and seaports.

In December 2004, a group of 40 American Muslims returning to the United States from an Islamic conference in Toronto were detained for half a day and coerced into being fingerprinted, despite being U.S. citizens. And in January 2005, the FBI admitted that it was keeping records of all U.S. airline passengers' personal itineraries from the months before September 11, 2001, and may continue to do so.

Such scrutiny may deter visiting athletes from countries where being gay is illegal. When asked about the reason for their visit,



Sports Complex

will closeted athletes be forced to explain their destination?

Additionally, Gay Games and OutGames participants with HIV who must bring medications may also face problems.

In 2001, the Canadian government reversed its policy to prevent HIV-positive people from immigrating to the country. For visitors to Canada, a health policy of preventing people with communicable diseases is still on the books, but not applied frequently.

U.S. customs has a similar policy, which was made into law in 1993. Shortly before Gay Games IV in New York in 1994, swift work by Federation of Gay Games officials enabled the creation of "designated event status" for HIV-positive individuals attending Gay Games IV.

Charles King, one of several FGG delegates working on the issue, said that similar plans are under way for Gay Games VII. "If we go through the same channels and follow the protocols of 10 years ago, we shouldn't have any problems," he said.

Among the federal offices that must approve designated event status for the Games are the Department of Health and Human Services, the State Department, the Attorney General's office, and the Department of Homeland Security.

With the top positions of these departments changing, King said that the FGG and Chicago Games Inc. – host of the seventh Games – have waited until this month to apply. "We have to await approval, but we're putting the foundation in place," said King.

Obtaining designated event status may ensure entry for foreign athletes. But since travel information may be made known to athletes' home embassies, some visitors will need to be more discreet. "We need to trek delicately on how to get people from some countries where being gay is punishable by death," said King.

Such people will be helped on an individual basis, King added, as their numbers are small. The majority of participants at the last Games, held in Sydney in 2002, were from North America and Europe.

Any potential problems aren't stopping people from registering for Gay Games VII, said Chicago Games Vice Co-Chair Kevin Boyer. Almost 2,000 individuals have registered. "Our figures at the end of December 2004 were 40 percent above our forecast and approximately double what Sydney had this many months in advance of Gay Games VI," Boyer said.

Montreal's OutGames claims 3,000 potential participants, with 57 percent from North America, 30 percent from Europe, and less than 3 percent from Africa, Asia, and South America.

As for foreign athletes visiting Chicago, King said few problems should arise. "In addition to the designated event status, we're making sure that we have all the necessary information in place with border control and immigration to handle any situation."

King hopes non-Americans will see the difference between the U.S. government and dissenting U.S. citizens. Most countries and their citizens have vocally expressed antipathy toward George W. Bush and his policies. "His strong-arm tactics in the handling of Iraq are revolting to many," said King.

After the tempestuous split that occurred between Montreal and FGG, officials for OutGames



Courtesy FGG

From left: Shane Blakebrough, delegate from South Africa; Charles King, from the Federation of Gay Games; and Elfie Scho-Antwerp, Lord Mayor of the city of Cologne, at the 2004 FGG annual meeting.

made dismissive comments about the seventh Games. In a September 21, 2004, interview with Quersports.org, OutGames Co-President Mark Tewksbury said, "Europeans seem to prefer Montreal to Chicago for different reasons ... Montreal is in Canada and not in the states – no further comment!"

And in a March 2004 *La Presse* interview, Louise Roy, CEO of Rendez-Vous Montreal (OutGames), dismissed the Gay Games as merely "an American trademark."

Are GLBT athletes who choose Montreal making their decision to spite America or Americans? Issues directly related to gay rights – most notably, marriage equality – may give Canada an edge over the United States.

Participants at either event will want to visit a friendly environment. Illinois' January passage of a statewide bill banning antigay

discrimination will have a positive effect on business in Chicago.

However, even as OutGames officials dismissed Chicago's Games and the FGG, in other statements they appropriate the name of U.S.-born Gay Games founder Tom Waddell, and his original phrase of "inclusion, participation, and personal best."

A November 2004 OutGames press release even paraphrased *Field of Dreams*, a distinctly American film about an American-born sport, baseball: "Build it, and they will come."

Whether or not attendance will reflect political beliefs, "There are people who want to make [the Games] political," said FGG's King. "But for us, it's not about politics. It's about inclusion and basic human rights." ▼

Read more columns at www.sportcomplex.org

SPORT EVENTS

Exhibit-ionism

If March came in like a lion, let's hope it goes out like, well, like an out-of-the-closet lion. You may have heard about the next exhibit at the GLBT Historical Society that I'm guest-curating. "Sporting Life: GLBT Athletics and Cultural Change from the 1960s to Today" opens April 2, but volunteers are quite welcome to join us in putting it all together this month. Saturdays are particularly fun, when the most volunteers help out from 1 to 5 p.m. Handy with painting, light construction or hanging art? Call (415) 777-5455 or e-mail sportinglifes@yahoo.com. For information, visit www.glbthistory.org.

Kicks

Among the many sports folk who've stopped by the historical society to loan items for the exhibit were members of the San Francisco Spikes soccer team, who reminded me that their season's kicking up. They've got two teams now, for advanced and beginning players, and now play in both the San Francisco and Marin men's soccer leagues. For more info, visit www.geocities.com/socialspike. ▼

better understanding of substance abuse and how to address it as an integrated part of HIV prevention.

She criticized abstinence-only programs that don't work and "stigmatize the lives of gay people" even while right-wing members of Congress are harassing innovative programs such as needle exchange that do work at reducing new infections.

Grossman pointed to a call in one newspaper article to publish all of the names of those who are HIV-positive. He said, "It goes back to the panic of the 1980s." ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Karel

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tionally not gotten much support from the gay community and has often been criticized for pointing out the community's dirty laundry.

"That's why I write about the gay community so much," he wrote. "You see, I'm a member of it, and how it is perceived directly affects me and my life. Being an insider, I've learned that one thing most gays and lesbians do not want is introspection. We have spent so much time being oppressed that we have become professional victims. And victims don't want to share in the blame."

And Karel doesn't expect to get much support from bisexuals any time soon. He believes that bisexuality is a cushion or a safety zone for people who are predominately gay but can't accept it.

"I do not believe in bisexuality – pure, true bisexuality, at least not in the amount people claim. Now, my disbelief in it doesn't mean it doesn't exist, but in my experience it is a rarity indeed," he wrote.

Karel pointedly wrote about the killings of Matthew Shepard and Newark teenager Gwen Araujo, suggesting that although the victims didn't deserve to die, they should have known they were flirting with disaster.

Karel's sharpest criticism is directed at the culture of drugs and unsafe sex rampant in the gay community.

"We are that horrible stereotype," he wrote. "Not only do we embody it, we embrace it. ... Bars are still full of substance-abusing queers with little or no self-respect, twirling, bumping, shopping – whatever they call their new drug trips."

Karel questioned whether the spread of AIDS was amplified by political correctness and whether quarantine, mandatory testing, or partner tracing should have been implemented. He wrote: "It should have been handled by however the medical experts deemed best, not the politicians, not the shouting homos crying out that their rights were being violated, not a generation painted as victims..."

Karel dismissed the argument that strict measures against HIV would have driven those infected

Boykin

◀ page 15

a publisher approved Boykin's first book proposal.

"It's nothing different than what she said as health director in Arkansas and Clinton knew she was a fiery, articulate advocate for her beliefs," Boykin said of Elders. At the time he served as a special media director and was the highest-ranking openly gay White House aide.

Boykin advocates a public dialogue to demystify and destigmatize gays for young people outside urban areas or who cannot approach their community for comfort, adding that likewise, men who have sex with men need to empower themselves for protection in a society that often despises them.

"In terms of safe relationships we need to reconsider the homophobia in our community," said Boykin. "I'm of the belief that the more honest our conversation, the more possibility there is to change attitudes."

He argues that in order to make healthy decisions, people must have access to healthcare, education, jobs, and homes.

underground: "Well, let's look at what the converse did – the secrecy, the anonymity. How many dead?"

Since his partner's death, Karel is facing a new challenge, a wrongful death suit against the hospital where he died and the doctor who treated him. Karel alleges that Howard died in Long Beach Memorial Hospital's emergency room of malpractice, not AIDS. A judge threw out his suit claiming that he had no standing to file it. AB205, which grants same-sex couples comparable rights in civil cases, hadn't yet passed when Howard died. The judge ruled that since he wasn't a legal spouse, he had no legal claim. Karel took his case to an appeals court that could issue its ruling on the case as early as this week.

Karel still lives in the Long Beach home that he shared with Howard. His show is usually broadcast remotely from his home. He said Bay Area home prices are too daunting to consider the move north.

Like his talk show, current events came up during the question and answer section of his book signing. He was asked about James Guckert, aka Jeff Gannon, who resigned from a conservative news Web site after it was reported that he worked as a gay prostitute. Karel said the fact that Guckert was issued a White House press pass and allowed to still for the president was a huge story that was downplayed by the press. For him, the story was proof positive of his belief that there is no liberal bias in the press.

"And I saw his picture," Karel added. "I wouldn't have given him \$200. I could walk out on the street and find something better."

Karel's next Bay Area public appearance is scheduled for Saturday, March 5, from noon to 2 p.m., at the Sunnymvale Circuit City store on El Camino Real and Sunnyside Avenue. He is also scheduled to appear on KGO radio's Leukemia Cure-A-Thon on Friday, March 18, from 9 to 11 p.m. The station will be auctioning off a dinner for two with Karel. Last year, the winning couple bid \$2,500. ▼

Full disclosure: Ed Walsh works part-time for KGO-TV news, whose parent company, ABC/Disney, owns KGO TV and radio.

"I've discovered people who own property take care of it, they have an investment, a stake in it," he said, using his mostly renting Harlem neighbors to illustrate the need for accountability and responsibility. "The same is true of how we have ownership over our lives. We have to be empowered to make decisions."

In the book's last chapter, influenced by his mother Marianne Williamson, he advocates creating a climate of love in church, media, family and friends.

"My mom asked a lot of questions, she'd put notes in the book, and ask, 'What is this all about?'" he said of his mother who spoke up for him when his grandmother opposed his coming out. ▼

Keith Boykin will be in San Francisco Monday March 7 at Alexander Books, 50 2nd Street, at noon and at A Different Light, 489 Castro Street, at 7 p.m. He will appear at Marcus Books, 3900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way in Oakland, Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m. A review of *Beyond the Down Low* appears on page 39 in the arts section.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0282296-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Eliza's Restaurant, 1457 18th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Tran Thuy Luong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/25/93. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/24/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282295-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Eliza's Restaurant, 2877 California St. San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Tran Thuy Luong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/16/99. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/24/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282555-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Zoom and Look, 3844 21st St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Lance Evans. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/21/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/1/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282558-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cinematic Expressions, 1261 Broderick St., Ste. 101, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Stephen Jang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/1/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282562-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Affordable Mortgages, 630 Grand View Ave. #208, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gurinder Kang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/1/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282086-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Peabrain, 1292 No St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Whitni Rader. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/17/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/13/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282086-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: InfoNuggets, 821 York St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Stephanie J. Papas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/3/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/3/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282617-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: InfoNuggets, 821 York St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Stephanie J. Papas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/3/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/4/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282672-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: SNS/Sign-N-Seal Notary Service, 3321 19th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed JoAnne J. Maldonado. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/4/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282603-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cyberbear, 3435 Cesar Chavez #206, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed David Green. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9/12/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/2/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282363-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Gymboree Play and Music, 1525 Sloat Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Agnes Lau. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/25/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282403-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bark n' Bun, 1650 Holloway Ave. #6 San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Karim Salgado. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/26/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282886-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Can-Cun Restaurant, 2288 Mission St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Gerardo Rico. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/6/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/11/05. FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282887-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Can-Cun Restaurant #1, 1003 Market St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Gerardo Rico. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/6/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/11/05. FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282885-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Taqueria Can-Cun #3, 3211 Mission St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Gerardo Rico. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/10/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/11/05. FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282830-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1)littleBIG Productions 2)Pervity.com, 4226 18th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Kristen Alice Imler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/9/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/11/05. FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282762-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1)North Beach Models 2)North Beach Model & Talent 3)Henri Afrika 4)Rocker Guitars 5)Bay Arts & Music, 1350 Howard St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John Z. Rocker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/08/05. FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282760-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Steve Justrich Interior Design, 819 14th St. #5 San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Steven A. Justrich. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/7/05. FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282799-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1)Big Muscle Media 2)Do I Have 3)What's In My Closet 4)AB Software 5)BigMuscle 6)Big Muscle bears 7)Normal Gay 8)Bearsoft, 156 Shawnee Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed William J. Sanders. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/3/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/7/05. FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-028299-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Xin Li Electric, 2567 43rd Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Xin Nu Li. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/28/96. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/7/05. FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282910-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Phood Consulting, 3296 22nd St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Peter Hood. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/31/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/14/05. FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 2005

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0282959-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ramon Campos DBA Jan-Pro, 1264 Fitzgerald Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ramon Campos Ceja. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or name on 2/15/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/15/05.

FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Pauline Tanya Ristau. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1441 Grant Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94133. Type of License applied for:
41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE

FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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THE SAN FRANCISCO CITY CLINIC

The San Francisco City Clinic is the City's only municipal STD Clinic. City Clinic provides free or low cost, confidential, comprehensive STD diagnostic and treatment services to anyone 12 years of age or older. The Clinic is located at 356 7th Street, between Folsom and Harrison Streets and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Tuesday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.; and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The telephone number is (415) 487-5500.

STD services are provided for all sexually transmitted diseases, including chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, crabs, scabies, herpes, genital warts, bacterial vaginosis, trichomoniasis, hepatitis, urethritis, cervicitis, proctitis, pelvic inflammatory disease, genital ulcer disease, papillomavirus and urinary tract infections. Specialized women's services, including birth control, pap smears, colposcopy and the morning after pill are also available. City Clinic clients may also receive hepatitis A & B vaccination, HIV post-exposure prevention and HIV counseling, testing, referral and partner notification services. Medical and case management services are also provided on a limited basis for underserved patients who have no other source of care.

All sexually active persons should be tested for STDs regularly. If you think you may have been exposed to an STD, you need to be promptly tested and treated to prevent you from developing the disease.

BLACK INFANT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Black Infant Health Improvement Program (Bi-Hip) is a free program that provides supportive services to pregnant and parenting African American women with children up to 2 years of age. If you or someone you know is a woman that needs help finding a doctor, getting to appointments, connecting to community resources, preparing for a new baby, or just someone to talk to, please call Bi-Hip at (415) 671-0214.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS(DPW)

DPW invites you to join the Adopt-A-Street Program! Adopt-A-Street is a partnership between the City and its merchants and residents. The program is simple: groups or individuals agree to adopt a street or an area and take responsibility for keeping it clean.

When you sign up for the program, you will receive some supplies, such as a broom, trash bags, and gloves from the DPW to fulfill your obligation. Additionally, the Department can provide you with graffiti removal supplies and/or matching paint to remove the graffiti in your neighborhood.

The Adopt-A-Street Program creates a cleaner more pleasant environment for everyone who lives, works and shops in adopted areas. The program strengthens community ties as neighbors and merchants work together to keep San Francisco clean. For more information, please call us at (415) 980-ADOP/T or visit our Department of Public Works website at sdpw.com. Together we can improve the cleanliness and therefore quality of life in San Francisco!

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #263178

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as 1)Bearsoft 2)Normalgay.com
3)Averagegay.com at 156 Shawnee Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed William J. Sanderson. The fictitious name was filed with the City and county of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/13/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/14/05.

STATEMENT FILE A-0282934-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: GPZ Electric, 434 9th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed James T. Duncan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/13/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/14/05.

FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283012-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Christian Horan Photography, 478 Duboce Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Christian Horan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/16/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/16/05.

FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282951-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Claire's Gourmet House, 3643 Balboa St. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed Jian Dong Tao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/15/05.

FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0280160

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Gold Center & Imports located at 888 Brannan St. # 152, San Francisco Ca. 94103. This business was conducted by a husband and wife, signed Anoosh Kasparian. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/21/04.

FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #0280160

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Gold Center & Imports located at 888 Brannan St. # 152, San Francisco Ca. 94103. This business was conducted by a husband and wife, signed Anoosh Kasparian. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/21/04.

FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282980-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rearden Studios, Inc. 355 Bryant St. #110 San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Stephen G. Periman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/15/05.

MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283170-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Covered Wagon Hotel, 800 Moscow St. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Shirley Broussard. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/1/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/23/05.

MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0283085-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Merit Illustration, 665 Natomia St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Andrew Merit. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/14/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/18/05.

MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541840

In the matter of the application of Carol Anne Nelson for change of name. The application of Carol Anne Nelson for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Carol Anne Nelson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Carol Nelson Ceres. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 26th day of April, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541840

In the matter of the application of Brittany Amber Brown for change of name. The application of Brittany Amber Brown for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Brittany Amber Brown has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Brittany Brown Ceres. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 26th day of April, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

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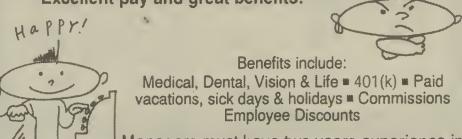
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New bio 'The Fabulous Sylvester: The Legend, The Music, The '70s in SF'
page 39

Karaoke happens

'In the Bars' column visits the Mint bar & lounge.
page 35

Doing 'Hard' time

Gay cop in crime thriller finally available on DVD.
page 34



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 9 • 3 March 2005

From Tel Aviv with love

Men from different cultures Walk on Water

by David Lamble

Lior Ashkenazi
as Eyal

In *Walk on Water*, the latest feature from filmmaker/lovers Eytan Fox and Gal Uchovsky, a burned out and emotionally distraught Israeli intelligence agent undergoes a sea change in his attitudes about everything near and dear to him. Coming off a risky assignment in which he has assassinated a Turkish official in front of the man's wife and young son, the agent, Eyal (the über-masculine hottie Lior Ashkenazi) discovers a nasty surprise at home. Fox, who has previously treated us to rugged Israeli guys (gay and straight) confronting the sexual-orientation revolution under wartime conditions (*Time Off*, *Yossi & Jagger*), this time presents a tale that is both a thriller and a very unusual love story.

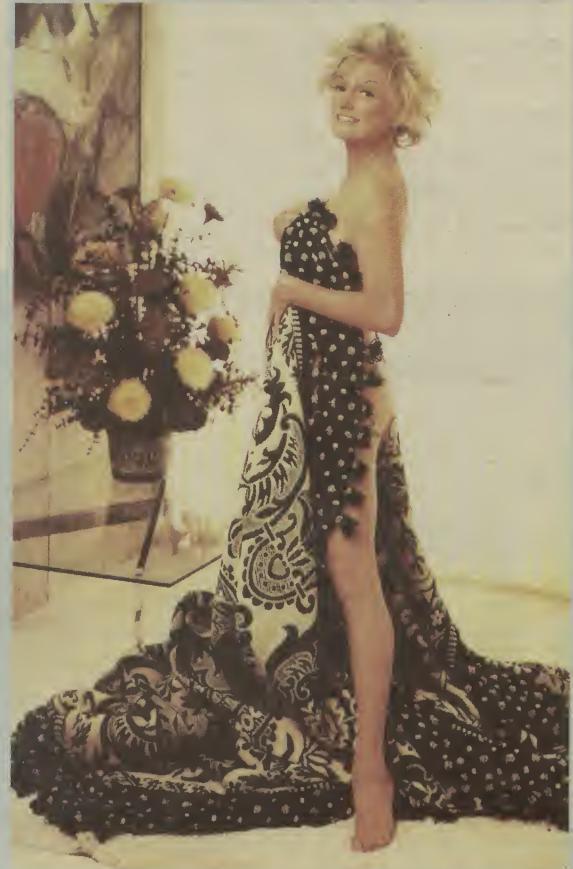
Recuperating from the implosion of his marriage, Eyal is given a light-duty assignment of spying on the adult grandchildren of a notorious Nazi war criminal. The young German Axel (the ravishingly attractive newcomer Knut Berger) soon challenges Eyal's assumptions about how men should treat each other. Beginning with the German kid's half-comic attempts literally to walk on the Dead Sea waters, the friendship takes the pair

through the tricky social currents of the Tel Aviv gay bar scene, where Axel hooks up with an Arab kid whom Eyal regards as a little more than a terrorist. Ultimately, the Israeli is forced to reexamine cherished beliefs about the relations between men: Arabs and Jews, Jews and Germans. *Walk on Water* is a record of the half-century of healing that has already occurred between two former enemies, and in its final act suggests how these same lessons can be applied to bridge the divisions in the Middle East.

The story builds to an emotional crescendo where a man will collapse sobbing into another man's arms in a setting he could not have imagined in his wildest dreams. The tightrope to that clinch requires that Axel and Eyal slowly construct a tenuous friendship through a symphony of small gestures like the application of sun lotion, or a mud-bath on the shore of an ancient sea.

Greeting Axel at the airport, Eyal blandly jokes that he's just missed a terrorist bombing. "Yes, but don't be afraid, they never do more than one in a day." Axel confesses to a taste for female singers, and Eyal insists on playing "The Boss," Bruce Springsteen. Axel trumps his butch companion with an erudite discussion

page 44 ►



Gay tidings from Phyllis Diller

Looking back at a half-century in show-biz

by Jay Blotcher

While gay men love their preening divas, they also hold a soft spot for the underdog with the verve to transform pain into belly-laughs. Before Totie Fields, Joan Rivers, Roseanne Barr and Margaret Cho, there was Phyllis Diller. An unapologetic ugly duckling, Diller was a pioneer in comic stand-up when women were confined to the kitchen. Like her comic successors, Diller first found favor with gay male audiences who cheered on a fellow misfit and iconoclast.

In her new autobiography, *Like a Lampshade in a Whorehouse: My Life in Comedy* (Tarcher/Penguin), Diller at 87 looks back on a half-century of show business with equal amounts of nostalgia and bittersweet candor.

The comedienne heartily acknowledges the gay men who managed her, and the gay audiences who jumpstarted her career.

"Gay men have the most wonderful sense of humor," said Diller, speaking on the telephone from her Beverly Hills home on a recent afternoon. "And they are willing to laugh. They appeal to me, and I appeal to them."

In the mid-1950s, Diller was a 37-year-old beleaguered housewife from Alameda with five children. She took a break from advertising to work at the nightclubs of North Beach, the bohemian section of San Francisco humming with counterculture offerings: jazz clubs, strip joints, gay bars and beatnik hangouts. Diller made her debut at a North Beach club called The Purple Onion. When she came onstage in second-hand evening clothes, highlighted by a

page 44 ►

Too much Oscar = brain damage

Coming in out of the rain, into the Academy of Friends gala

by Roberto Friedman

Last Sunday night, it's another great, driving rainstorm in San Francisco (thanks, global warming!), and Out There goes out to do what any other *bona fide* SFer would do in the middle of a torrential downpour: slap on a tuxedo, choose an umbrella, head out to a pier, and party. Specifically, the 25th annual **Academy of Friends** Gala, held in the great party-space of the Festival Pavilion down at Fort Mason.

The gala's silver anniversary meant silver spray-painted Oscar-boys posing on pedestals, instead of the usual gilding. All the tin-foil décor was so *Andy Warhol*, even if the billowing white lace which filled the screens during commer-

cial breaks was so Victoria's Secret. We had the costumes the *Perrier boys* were wearing lovingly described to us, but a picture is worth a thousand words. Mostly, we just staked out a table, watched the show for its mind-numbing duration, and took notes. To wit:

The pre-show show is eerily prescient about who would eventually score the trophies. Best Actress **Hilary Swank** assures us she has grown so much from making *Million Dollar Baby*. Best Actor **Jamie Foxx** says there is so much love out there for **Ray Charles**. In fact, he was just listening to Ray last night!

Then here come the also-rans.

Laura Linney talks up **Alfred Kinsey**, the man. **Virginia Madsen** says they were still sewing up her dress at the last sec. **Orlando Bloom** says something we don't even listen to, he looks so good. **Don Cheadle** looks impeccable. **Scarlett Johansson** says **Judy Garland** is why she got into the industry. She wanted to say, "Meet me in St. Louis!" **Penelope Cruz** is in **Oscar de la Renta**, whose name she makes a big deal of pronouncing.

Finally, we've reached the bewitching hour of 5 p.m. Kicky host **Chris Rock** says **Tom Cruise** is so versatile: "He's gay, he's straight, he's black, he's white!" Rock complains black movies don't have real titles. "*Barber Shop*: that's not a title, that's a location!"

The stars and minor awards fly by: 6 p.m., 7 p.m.! By 8 p.m., it feels way late. **Renee Zellweger**: she does look more and more like **Shirley MacLaine**, with a stick up her butt. *Spider-Man 2* wins some award. "Didn't see *Spider-Man 2*, did you?" we ask our table-mate, Opera Plaza resident **Miram**. "I didn't see it, either," says Miram.

Then the morbid roll-call of the dead. Lots and lots of **Johnny Carson**. **Paul Winfield**. **Marlon Brando**. Someone at our table didn't know he'd died, we're not saying who! But we're temporarily distracted by local celebs grazing in our midst. There's **Veronica Klaus**! There's **Jenni Olson**! Meanwhile, back in TV-land, **Prince** sports a darling pink get-up, looking fine announcing Best Song, the one from *The Motorcycle Diaries* which **Antonio Banderas** butchered earlier in the show.

We think we're dealing with the parade of bosom and botox onscreen quite equitably, and then **Sharon Stone** crops up as a presenter. Girl, last year you was in *Catwoman*! Get yo' glam ass off the stage.



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Steven Uderoff



Stone: Mama's always on stage.

Jane Philomen Cleland



Perrier boys serve it up with a straw and a codpiece.

Steven Uderoff

THEATRE

He's looked at love from both sides now

Comic Dan Rothenberg comes out as 'Regretrosexual' at the Phoenix

by Richard Dodds

The door on Dan Rothenberg's closet swings both ways. When he arrived in San Francisco in his early 20s, he came out big time. "I went for the gusto," he said. "I went all the way for gay, wanting to be a part of the fun, be part of the parades and the floats, but then found out I'm not quite gay."

Wanting to fit in with his new crowd, he had suppressed his feelings for women at the same time he was establishing himself as a gay comic. With both his personal and professional lives tied up in a gay identity, he said, "I was afraid everyone would reject me."

While he has neutered his stand-up routines, leaving out any personal sexual component, he is tackling his degayification head-on in the solo show *Regretrosexual*. Now living in Los Angeles, Rothenberg will return to debut the show in SF for three performances this weekend at the Phoenix Theatre.

Regretrosexual opens with Rothenberg preparing to tell the woman he eventually marries about his gay days in San Francisco. At first he tries to apologize for his past, blaming youthful confusion, and proclaiming himself as straight as an arrow. His girlfriend, burned before by a boyfriend who turned out to be gay, is not too happy with the news.

But Rothenberg comes to embrace his various components. "I'm proud of it. It's part of who I am. It's a wonderful thing to have dated both sexes. It enriches your life."

And it was his wife who encouraged him to turn his journey into a show. "She has grown proud of me in every way, once she understood where I'm coming from," Rothenberg said. "She thinks it's a funny and emotional story which she would like people to enjoy."

Rothenberg, now 32, had a college friend in the process of coming out. "He was a guy I really idolized, and I wanted to come out with him." They moved together to San Francisco.

"In the end I hurt him," Rothenberg said, "because he had feelings for me but I couldn't quite have those feelings for him. One of the messages of the show is that if we're not honest with ourselves, people around us get hurt. I feel attracted to men, and now I embrace the term 'bisexual,' but you might say I'm a retired bisexual."

Perhaps Rothenberg's sexual trajectory was presaged by the men he did choose to date in SF. "I started to find that my taste in men was for very femme guys," he said. "A lot of my gay friends would kind of say, 'Wow, why are you attracted to these guys? It's weird that's what you like. If that's what I liked, I would just date women.' I was never into manly men."

His taste in women is a little broader, he said, "but I do have a special liking for dyke-y women. I've had many lesbian friends say, 'Hey, Dan, let's sleep together,' and I've done a comedy bit about that. How seldom do men get the

chance to feel what it's really like to be used?"

Rothenberg hopes that *Regretrosexual* will grow into a multi-actor show. "I think it would make a great film," he said. "As specific as this niche sounds, I'm hoping that anyone can come in and go, 'OK, Dan is a bit more neurotic than most, but I see what happened.'"

Can Rothenberg foresee any backlash from those who see his story as politically suspect? "I certainly think that could happen," he said, "but the reason I would stand by this show whatever happens is that very simply it's a love story, and I'm just being honest."

For more information on *Regretrosexual*, call 820-1457.

Hot Coco

Clinton Leupp has been creating shows for alter ego Miss Coco Peru for 14 years, winning raves and awards from New York to Los Angeles. But somehow San Francisco hasn't had a chance to go loco for Coco.

That omission ends March 10, when *Miss Coco Peru Is Undaunted!* arrives at the New Conservatory Theatre Center for a three-week run. The show won the 2004 GLAAD Award for Outstanding Los Angeles Theatre, and its star was described in the LA Times as "a heavenly hoot, a svelte diva with a belt voice and a Bronx accent...a hybrid of Paul Lynde and Lola Falana."



Rothenberg embraces his bisexuality. "It's a wonderful thing to have dated both sexes. It enriches your life."

Miss Coco Peru has also made numerous film and TV appearances, including *Will & Grace*, *Trick, To Wong Foo*, and *Girls Will Be Girls*. As for her own shows, Miss Peru says, "I write them to work out my own issues, and then charge you to see it."

For more info, call 861-8972 or go to nctcf.org.

Short scenes

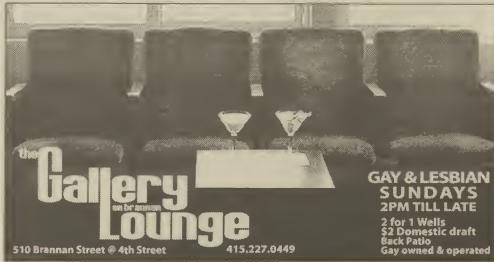
• Sex, drag, and rock 'n' roll are the stuff of *Beautiful*, an experimental, environmental, deconstructionist, cross-dressing musical

running March 4-10 at Cell-space. Call (510) 410-1426 or go to elasticfuture.com.

• In celebration of International Women's Day, the Shee Theatre Company and Golden Thread Productions are presenting an evening of theater, poetry, and dance focusing on women's voices

from the Middle East. *What Do Women Say?* will have performances March 4 and 5 at Thick House. Call 626-4061 or go to goldenthread.org.

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.



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Whitman's 'Leaves' illuminated

Fred Hersch Ensemble to play Herbst Theatre this Sunday

by Jason Victor Serinus

Walt Whitman's passion and vision have made a huge difference to the life of jazz great Fred Hersch. Their first encounter was in 1976, when Hersch received an assignment to read Whitman's "When I Heard at the Close of the Day" in a music conservatory literature course. Fred found the 19th-century poet's insights and homoeroticism of enormous import to his coming out process.

Twenty years later, discovering Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* in a Parisian bookshop proved a "revelation" to Hersch. But it took 20 solo recordings, contributions to 100 others, two Grammy nominations for Best Jazz Instrumental Performance, years of HIV activism, a Guggenheim 2003 Fel-

lowsip, and support from the Estate Project of Artists with AIDS before Hersch was ready to set portions of *Leaves of Grass* to music.

The Fred Hersch Ensemble's new CD of Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, released this month on the Palmetto label, precedes a world tour that takes them to six US cities (including San Francisco) as well as Europe. A pre-taped appearance on NPR's *Fresh Air* is expected to pack American venues.

Although not intended as such, Hersch's project coincidentally celebrates the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Leaves of Grass*. All performances feature Fred's piano as an integral part of his usual ensemble of eight stellar musicians. Vocalists Kate McGarry and Kurt Elling make essential contributions. Extra effort has gone into the recording itself, which is near demonstration

quality.

Hersch has done an extraordinary job of uncovering the music inherent in Whitman's poetry. Immersing himself anew in *Leaves of Grass'* 600-plus pages, including 60 devoted solely to "Song of Myself," he discovered that the words that most inspired him musically were among Whitman's most mystical texts.

The resultant composition, featuring excerpts from "Song" as its centerpiece, illuminates *Leaves'* metaphysical flights with a simple clarity that underscores the heart-centered magnificence of Whitman's spiritual journey. For many listeners, the unencumbered directness of Hersch's chamber music approach will prove more meaningful than reading the texts in silence.

Special credit goes to the vocalists. There is no need to listen with texts in hand; every word is clear. Kurt Elling, whose vocal production and parlano style at times recall Frank Sinatra's, sings with an unadorned simplicity that allows the poetry's beauty to shine. His spoken contributions may be self-conscious, but his unpretentious vocalism is as easy and direct as Fred Astaire's.

Kate McGarry proves a perfect complement, the beauty of her voice underscoring the purity of Whitman's affections. McGarry's first appearance, featuring wordless vocalism doubling with wind and brass, sounds so instrumental that at first one does not realize that a singer has joined the octet. Though both vocalists mostly sing Hersch's music as written, McGarry displays her improvisatory skills on "The Mystic Trumpeter."

Hersch explains in the liner notes that "the strange beauty" of Whitman's idiosyncratic and improvisatory language, subject matter, "freewheeling verse, and irreverence" link him to Beat poets Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Gregory Corso. The words he has selected "reflect Whitman as philosophically akin to Thoreau, Emerson or the Buddha — profoundly spiritual, but not related to the God of the traditional New England religion of his day."



'The overriding message in what Whitman wrote is about being yourself.'

Reached by phone at his home in Manhattan, Hersch spoke passionately about the project.

"I love Whitman's word-painting. He has a sense of wonder that's quite beautiful.

"The overriding message in everything Whitman wrote is about being yourself. Some people have called him the original hippie. He was one of the first to say, 'This is who I am, this is what I write. Follow your heart.'"

Asked to what extent the Whitman texts he chose reflect aspects of himself, Hersch noted that he and the poet were closely aligned. "I jokingly refer to myself as a JewBu. I do Vipassana Meditation as often as I can. Once a year, I go on a one-week silent retreat. It's a great way to spend time with yourself. Whether your mind is bouncing all over or really focused, you have to sit down with a

'let's see what happens' attitude.

"It's the same thing I do as a jazz pianist. I've been meditating my whole life, mostly at the piano. Composing is a different kind of process, but I try to improvise the same way I approach meditation."

Hersch's *Leaves of Grass* is a rare achievement. A host of well-known composers, including Delius, Knussen, Vaughan Williams, Ives, Weill, Holst, Kurka and gay Americans Michael Tilson Thomas, Ned Rorem, and Chris de Blasio have been inspired by Whitman's poetry. Few have responded with such heart-touching beauty as Fred Hersch. ▼

The Fred Hersch Ensemble performs *Leaves of Grass* Sun., March 6, 7 p.m., in SF's Herbst Theater. Tickets: call (415) 392-2545.

Hands on fire

Messiaen's two-piano masterpiece on CD

by Tim Pfaff

Pianists need more than monumental techniques to play Olivier Messiaen's music. Great as its technical demands are, Messiaen's music also asks something only some great pianists have: "surrender." Since that idea is at the very heart of his two-piano masterpiece, *Visions de l'Amen*, the work decisively divides those who can enter the Kingdom from those who cannot. Steven Osborne's lofty new Hyperion CD of the work (with Martin Roscoe almost his match in the second-piano part) places him among the leading Messiaen pianists of the day. At his San Francisco Performances recital at Kanbar Hall of the Jewish Community Center on March 15, he will



play the complete *Vingt regards sur l'enfant Jésus* (which he has also recorded, superbly, for Hyperion).

Because of the extraordinary demands that two hours-plus work makes on both pianist and audience, it's a concert rarity played complete. In a quarter-century of concert-going, I had only two opportunities to hear it all at

once, and the second, by its dedicated and first-ever performer (and the composer's wife) Yvonne Loriod, remains in the top-five musical experience of my life.

As always, the better you know the music, the richer the experience, and Osborne's CD would make ideal preparation. Among other things, you could discover how he's grown with this unfathomable piece. On the evidence of the new *Visions de l'Amen*, he's become an even more spontaneous and risk-taking player.

The time is in easy memory when members of the musical elite questioned whether Messiaen's work would outlive him. The doubt was less about his manifest talent as a composer (although he's hardly to all tastes) than about the personal, overtly mystical,

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MUSIC

Perseus smelted from gold

Berlioz's neglected 'Benvenuto Cellini' out on Virgin CD

by Stephanie von Buchau

When Pamela Rosenberg first took over the San Francisco Opera top job in 2001, she let it be known that Hector Berlioz, whose bicentenary would be celebrated in 2003, was her favorite opera composer. Among new productions of his operas she promised for the next few years: *Beatrice et Benedict*, *Benvenuto Cellini*, *Damnation de Faust* (not exactly an opera, but close enough) and his four-hour masterpiece, *Les Troyens*.

Alas, SFO's financial troubles that followed 9/11 — though not necessarily caused by that tragedy — nipped those grandiose Berlioz plans in the bud. *Beatrice* was scrapped; *Troyens* postponed until 2008, when, it is hoped, new GD David Gockley will rethink the co-production with ENO, reported to me by London pals to be half-wonderful and half-gastly. *Damnation* was given in a Eurotrashy production in 2003 with inadequate soloists, though Donald Runnicles and the SFO Orchestra covered themselves in glory.

Cellini also seems to have vanished, which is too bad as the sparkling new recording by Berlioz specialist John Nelson makes clear. This is one of those scores that can legitimately be labeled brilliant. It was originally suggested for the Opera-Comique by the then 27-year-old composer. The Comique rejected it, though as a comedy it is a candidate for spoken dialogue. Undaunted, Berlioz and his librettists



petitioned the Paris Opera, which accepted the work. It was written in 1836 and was finally, after the usual anti-artistic travails — cuts, last-minute re-writes, angry singers and backstage intrigue — mounted at L'Opera on September 10, 1838.

The premiere was a monumental failure, and Berlioz withdrew the opera after four performances. The next production was by Liszt in Weimar in 1852, again much revised and cut by Berlioz. That version has come down to us in the few performances given since, and was recorded by Colin Davis and Nicolai Gedda in the 1970s. This new recording (Virgin Classics; 3 discs) is based on the original score found in the archives of L'Opera, containing 30 minutes more music. Nelson adopts the modern musicological practice of restoring old music unless it appears that the composer's second thoughts were superior and not forced on him by management.

Slang back

The result is a brilliant, hard-edged, witty comedy, with most of

the entertainment value in the orchestra. The libretto is no "well-made play," but as Berlioz pointed out, the slangy, vulgar libretto is no worse than what passed for "literature" in those days: pompous pieces by Scribe, written for Auber, Meyerbeer, et al. In telling the story of how the goldsmith Cellini cast the famous Perseus statue that still stands in the Piazza della Signoria in Firenze, Berlioz has incorporated commedia dell'arte characters and his own original orchestral ideas, including the use of bass clarinet, cornets and the ophicleide, a lugubrious brass instrument. (Incidentally, the front cover of Virgin's *Cellini* set features a below-the-waist shot of the naked Perseus.)

It goes without saying that master of orchestration Berlioz made no concessions to the human voice. The title part is high, long and rhythmically fiendish, one of the reasons the work has languished. Chris Merritt could still sing it in '99 in an exciting (albeit wobbly) performance from Amsterdam conducted by Valery Gergiev, but there are few heroic tenors today who have the stones and the savvy to manage the part of a swaggering young man, serious about love and art, but otherwise a roistering debauch who drinks too much, thinks nothing of fighting a duel, stands up to Pope Clement VII, and, in the final scene, throws all his beautiful sculptures and gold pieces into the furnace when he runs out of metal for casting the Perseus.

Perhaps Gregory Kunde is a

compromise in the title role. He started as a bel canto leggero (remember his high D-flat in the SFO *Puritani*?), but after his striking Aenee in the DVD of *Les Troyens*, from the Chatelet, he's obviously stepping up to more heroic parts. He has the high tessitura, and rhythmically, he's a superb musician. A little more sex appeal in the tone, and he'd be perfect. His beloved Teresa is sung well by Patrizia Ciofi, another singer with everything but alluring tone. The best role in the opera is the pants part of Cellini's apprentice, Ascanio, here absolutely ravishing in the hands of

Joyce Di Donato.

Nelson is not a hyped conductor, but he's a Berlioz expert. I remember hearing him conduct the *Requiem* with San Francisco Symphony years ago. It was one of the great choral concerts I've ever attended. Here he gets the tempos, the ensembles, the humor and excitement all correct. In the opera's booklet, Hugh Macdonald acknowledges that Liszt was the first to suggest that Berlioz was Cellini: a valiant artist, fighting the forces of reaction and routine. He believed his music wouldn't be understood for 150 years. He was right about that, too. ▼

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Recording potpourri

by Jason Victor Serinus

Richard Bone
Tales from the Incantina
(Indium) www.richardbone.com

His countenance may be severe, but Richard Bone's disc of ambient music is as sweet as can be. Inspired by the spiritual philosophies of the ancient Toltec people, one of whom once wrote, "I am made of light, I am made of stars," Bone has fashioned 11 synthesized tracks that will leave you feeling good, better and best.



If you find such titles as "Inevitable Zen," "Corazon del Cielo," "Dzibana," and "The Fifth Riddle" enigmatic, contemplate this from the website: "The gods of the ancient Toltecs were, at once, benevolent and unforgiving. These elegant idols demanded sacrifice and passion, prayer and submission. In return, they promised a light everlasting, a night of eternal stars and a dreamtime of immeasurable

wonder." Though the words read like a preface to an S/M excursion, Bone's lovely *Tales* are gentle, transporting, and perfect for background or dreamtime.



Jiang Ting
Dance (MA Recordings)

In her second recording for this adventurous audiophile label, Chinese pipa master Jiang Ting offers a selection of mostly modern compositions. The strange and beautiful qualities of her pear-shaped instrument, augmented on four tracks by Jia Pengfang's Erhu (Chinese violin), have undoubtedly never been conveyed in such lifelike sound.

The pipa first arrived in China from India over 2,000 years ago. While the ancient instrument had silk strings and was held differently than now, the modern three-octave pipa uses metal strings. With a shallow body of hollowed out, varnished teak and a soundboard of wutong wood, its addictive, tangy sound is far more refined than the American banjo's, and is achieved by plucking rather than

strumming.

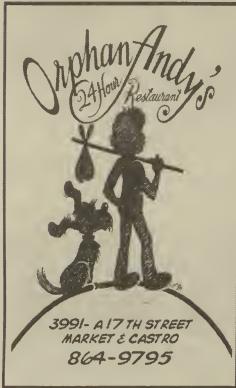
As accessible and modern as Jiang Ting's 10 selections may be, one cannot listen to them without feeling the profound differences between the cultures of the East and the West. We may all live and love, but the contrast in the way we express ourselves musically is so great that humility is the order of the day. As first-prize winner in the 1996 national Pipa performance contest, Jiang Ting's immersion in her instrument is so deep that even her duet arrangement of "The Olive Tree," a 1970s movie theme known to most Chinese citizens, sounds from another time and place. Beautiful stuff.



Leif Ove Andsnes
Mozart Piano Concertos 9 & 18
(EMI)

It was January, 1777. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had just reached the age of 21 when his Ninth Piano Concerto in E-flat, K271, announced that the precocious youth from Salzburg had matured into a composer of astounding ge-

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Chi Chi churns it out

Three contractual obligation movies considered

by John F. Karr

It was good news that Chi Chi LaRue would stop making films for Falcon Studio's Jocks line in order to concentrate on making films for his own company, Rascal Video. I've thought these were frequently more creative and fresher than those he made elsewhere. Case in point would be three recent titles he's made for Unzipped Video. Maybe that's a contract he needs to reconsider as well. All three are professionally made, glossy-looking films with starry casts. *Camp Freshmen* comes up much better than its companions. It's dependable mainstream porn, neither over- nor underachieving. But *Be a Man* and especially *Huge Deposits* are nearly entirely synthetic, with false situations, false sets, and badly overacted, false lust.

Camp Freshmen is the only one of the three that lets its sex happen fairly naturally. It has a timeworn premise, launching its action when the camp's counselors hatch a contest to see who can make it with a camper first. Off they go! in a crass scramble to put the make on the first thing in sight. Yet after some generally entertaining liaisons, the movie reaches a sweet conclusion, as each of the counselors concedes his chance to win, unable to be callow about experiences that were personally rewarding. Three of the scenes feature tasty flip-flopping. Brad Benton is typically gung-ho in one, Owen Hawke typically nasty in another, and in



a third, tasty boxcover boys Hunter James and Damon DeMarco, long-haired skaterboy types, move believably from hesitant tenderness to ballsy fulfillment.

Raising this decent movie into a must-see is the incredible shaft of Andy Hunter. With his ironing-board body bisected by a diving-board cock —

what lengthly solidity!

what

spring! — Hunter tangles in the first scene with two guys who nearly get the back of their heads punched out as Hunter jackrabbits his javelin into their surprisingly resilient mouths. Then Hunter fucks as one possessed, twitching in fuck-seizure as if there's an electric current snarling through him. Hunter absolutely cannot act, but jeez, can he fuck. And your eyes will bug when one fellow skewers himself on Hunter's shaft, while simultaneously providing a seat for the third, in an impressive three-man reverse cowboy. And when Hunter



Karrnal Knowledge

shoots, it's a long-distance paradox of showering sauce.

Chi Chi must have made *Huge Deposits* on the run. It's a jumble of unbelievable characterizations, incredulous situations, and faked intensity. Only one of its four sex scenes is truthful, and that's the first, with always-watchable Jeremy Jordan pulverized by newcomer Jacob Slader, an unshaven, raunchy little piece of street trash with spiffy tattoos, an up-thrust cock, and a hopped-up make-out mode that blasts Jeremy's little ass into outer space. There's more helter-skelter than style to the rest of the movie, although I liked the snappy music, particularly a sexy little samba that accompanies a three-way; too bad the composer isn't credited.

Crock of ages

Sexuality is a charade in most of *Be a Man*, which suffers from a crock-of-shit premise. Or, more exactly, four crock-of-shit premises. Although these are laid out in thankfully brief moments that launch each scene, they argue that you're manly if you conceal your emotions, don't admit to physical pain, or allow yourself to be degraded or forced to bottom. Still, two of the scenes succeed. Like Garbo's face or Monroe's skin, the camera loves Collin O'Neal's cock, and if you disregard the stupid scene set-up it's given in *Be a Man*, you'll enjoy it as much as Troy Punk does in one of the movie's two recommendable scenes. This one has foreplay (kissing, boners in jockstraps, Punkuzzling his face into O'Neal's chest hair), lascivious cock-play, virtuosic fucking, and a dazzling blow-out pop-shot from O'Neal.

The movie's finale also sizzles. It stars the estimable Alex LeMonde in a romantic and boffo bang-it-up



with Patrick Downs, whose manly handsomeness, muscled body and classic cock are complemented by a rare sincerity of passion. And he's a cock-rider par excellence — settling down slowly, and undulating sensuously. This sort of sexuality is manly: they do it as they like it, and not as a porn fictionalization of masculinity.

All three of these movies were written by Doug Jeffries. He excelled as a porn star, but his scriptwriting beats up these films. The sex scenes of the latter two titles are jarred with discontinuous editing, and all three are disgraced by the improbably vertiginous angles from which videographer Hue Wilde expects us to watch the action. This reaches a nauseating nadir in *Camp Freshmen* when the camera rocks at such a steep angle between two performers that I felt like a boat wallowing in the huge swells of a roiling sea. Definitive *mal de mer*. The law of averages says Chi Chi's bound to come up with some good pairings in three movies, but a little more craft, or just plain concern, would have improved them all. www.unzippedvideo.com

Crime story with a queer beat

John Huckert's 'Hard' is finally out on DVD

by David Lamble

"Hey, how far are you going?"
"All the way."

"That's just what I like to hear, man. Get in. Throw your stuff in the back."

A film that derives its title from Milton's *Paradise Lost* promises a bumpy ride. John Huckert's debut feature *Hard*, now out on DVD, begins when Kevin, a red-haired, dewy-eyed little lamb of a boy-man from Ohio, climbs into the shotgun seat of an SUV driven by a guy who calls himself "Jack."

We learn that the vehicle was stolen, the identity appropriated from its possibly dismembered owner. Jack (Malcolm Moorman) is a cool operator with the hard-scrabble-country good looks of the Marlboro Man, the inner demons of Robert Mitchum's vengeful preacher in *Night of the Hunter*, and the audacious, seductive charm of Robert Walker's cool psychopathic stalker in *Strangers on a Train*. Jack is the devil in denim, a perfect storm of manly good looks who sweet-talks his victim out of their clothes, their flesh and perhaps even their souls. Jack is, in short, the gay screen villain we all knew would show up



Jack is the devil in denim, a perfect storm of manly good looks, trouble.

some day. He's no stereotype. Ninety-eight percent of us would probably jump as eagerly as young Kevin into Jack's front seat.

Just as Hannibal Lecter needed Clarice Starling, Jack needs rookie LA police detective Raymond Yates (Noel Polomaria) to provide the psychological incentive to take his deadly game to a higher level. Freshly divorced and painfully closeted, Raymond has just been called off street patrol and given his detective's shield and a crusty old partner with the nickname

Lucky, bestowed on him because he's never had to use his gun. As played by veteran character actor Charles Lanyer, Lucky is an avuncular grouch from the Karl Malden school who at one point wonders aloud, "Why the fuck can't we get any good, moral people in this job?"

Raymond moonlights in a fake leather jacket at dimly lit queer bars with names like *The Hideaway*. Picking up studs whom he practically frisks on the dance floor, checking on whether they're trust-

worthy tricks, one night Raymond has the good fortune to go home with a cop from another Southern California city, who warns him to not come out until he's proven himself on the job, "otherwise they'll never see anything else."

Raymond and Lucky are tested in action when young street hustlers turn up naked, bloody and dead on the muddy backroads of Silverlake. Director/writer (with John Matkowsky) Huckert mixes the squishy, creepy-crawly horror of films like *Seven* with the in-your-face black humor about the facts of death of HBO's *Six Feet Under*. The murders, depicted with both psychological accuracy and an almost pornographic specificity, cause the viewer to be both repelled and complicit, tracing the very thin line that can separate legitimate erotic pleasure from the most horrific crime.

Combat zone

Hard becomes a deadly duel of wits and bodily combat between killer and cop. Huckert isn't as fancy as director William Friedkin attempted to be in *Cruising*. Friedkin wanted to show his protagonists as deadly doppelgangers whose lusts, fears and capacity for

next page ▶

Karaoke-mania sings out in the Castro

The Mint's microphone beckons to both amateurs & seasoned pros

by Mike Sher and
Mark des Jardins

If you're in an "I feel a song coming on" mood, karaoke at the Mint might be just the right thing for you. The Mint, San Francisco's premier karaoke lounge, located on Market near Duboce next to the new Japanese restaurant Sushi Delight, offers both amateur and more seasoned singers the chance to sing to a captive audience seven days a week. Karaoke is available from 3 p.m. on, so if you want a trip down memory lane, this may be your place.

It may be karaoke at its finest here in the Bay. Both the entertainment section of the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *San Francisco magazine* have called the Mint the Best Karaoke in the Bay, and *Evening Magazine* and Don Blue Blew with 101.3 FM agree. What makes it so special? Does it help that most of their employees are gay? Does it help that gays and music go together like Rodgers and Hammerstein?

We spoke with Frank Huang, KJ (Karaoke Jockey) and Events Coordinator at the Mint Karaoke Lounge. Frank says they offer the kind of pop, standards and show tunes gays love — *Les Miserables*, for example. The Gay and Lesbian Football and Soccer Teams reserve tables at the place when they want to socialize instead of kicking each other's brains out. Recently, the bar raised \$6,500 for the tsunami relief effort. One of us remembers Frank from the N' Touch years



In The Bars

ago, and we ask him about it. Frank did organize karaoke there, but the Mint is now his new home, he says.

The bar dates back to the '40s, and became a piano bar in the '60s. The original owners of the Twin Peaks bought the place in the '70s, giving the bar its current name, based on its proximity to the US Mint. Current owner Vic Hundahl is cordial, and introduces us to his assistant (who doubles as bartender) Jim Steuckert. Vic bought the bar in '87. In '91, he introduced karaoke, and in '93 went completely karaoke. Six years ago, he remodeled — \$96K, he con-

cludes. The bar has two levels, with a rectangular bar serving patrons. On the lower level, over a dozen bar-chairs are lined up, and the upper level holds a dozen barstools. It is on this upper level that karaoke happens, and here some 40 backed chairs are neatly lined in rows facing the stage. The electronics for the karaoke are state-of-the-art, but it's the open cavity in the ceiling that acts as a sort of bellows and helps give the rich, full sound-reproduction noted in reviews.

Time capsule

Young gays flood the place during the week. But on weekends, the straight world competes. It's a trend we're seeing in our series on gay bars, and a reason for the series: so the gay bars that are left which can still be called gay are recorded for posterity. With all the notoriety about the Mint both in



With KJ (Karaoke Jockey) and Events Coordinator Frank Huang manning the controls, Aldo Rodriguez sings.

the press and television, it's not surprising that tourists are now seen on weekends. They're of all races, from India, England, France, Portugal, Ireland and elsewhere. But midweek, gays flood the place. Is it because it's the only large place in the Castro to offer karaoke? A crowd of up to 60 starts entering on weekdays around 9 p.m.

No Happy Hour here, but prices are moderate. Domestic beer \$3, imported beer \$3.75, well drinks \$4.50. Day bartenders include Chris, Ben, Jeff and Jim Steuckert. In the evening, several of the bartenders are 10-or-more-year veterans, such as David, Jane and Brian.

Weekends can mean up to 80 people in the place, and standing

room only. Tables may be reserved for baby shows, anniversaries and divorces, with tables held from 8 p.m.-9 p.m., but never for more than an hour, on weekends maybe less.

Through the back door, a patio area is accessible during the day only, not at night due to the residential apartment buildings in the back of the property. The vegetation in the back is the result of Darwin's law: survival of the fittest. It's not any of their own planting, we're told.

You can check out their site at www.themint.net for more information. Try what promises to be an excellent Japanese restaurant next door, then step into the Mint for a cocktail and find out if the muse beckons you to take stage and sing your heart out. We didn't, but it was before 3 p.m. ▼

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Concertos

◀ page 33

nious. The first movement of his concerto spills over with a virtually unstoppable flood of joyous energy, with one delight following another. Piano and orchestra engage in frequent dialogue, as if they were instruments in a string quartet engaged in a conversation they wish all in the world to hear.

The slower second movement is far more muted, its introspection balancing the vivacity of the opening. Then comes the surprise of the finale, with a long and graceful Minuet suddenly appear-

ing amidst an otherwise rapid-fire, almost giddy conclusion. It's an amazing work, one whose unfettered melodies provide such a contrast to the mediocre hum drum and raw anger of today's pop fare.

Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 18 in B-flat, K456, dates from 1784, seven years before his death at age 36. I cannot pretend that the opening March is among my favorite melodies, but the concerto is otherwise filled with a remarkable series of delights. Mozart may have written 41 symphonies, but it's in his piano concertos, operas and chamber music that one finds the greatest invention.

There is, of course, a huge dif-

ference between the sound of a modern Steinway and orchestra and the slimmer, more pinpoint sound of the instruments of Mozart's day. Regardless, the playing of Leif Ove Andsnes and the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra seems perfectly suited for these concertos. The pianist's somewhat straight approach to romantic repertoire, one that eschews ultimate angst and gush in favor of clarity, seems at home in Mozart's classic style. I cannot imagine anyone who takes the time to focus on what composer and artists are doing here to conclude their listening without feeling refreshed and warmed by Mozart's greatness. ▼

Hard

◀ previous page

erotic violence might merge, but Huckert's unflinching courage in revealing the many twisted motives behind homophobic violence ultimately trumps the cards Friedkin was willing to play. *Hard* is the film that *Cruising* should have been had both Friedkin and Al Pacino not lost their nerve.

Recalling the phony Viagra ads that warn about erections lasting more than four hours, *Hard* has been coming for an agonizingly long time. Shown, thanks to the programming sagacity of Frameline's Michael Lumpkin, an unprecedented three times at the Castro Theatre a few years ago, *Hard* subsequently fell off the film as its makers struggled to deal with the deal resulted in this recent DVD edition.

The new 35 mm digital transfer captures the remarkable low-budget look of a film that is a mixed-genre treat of latter-day noir, modern horror and real drama, mixed with hardcore sexual sensations. The look neatly represents a film whose makers were constantly shooting without permits on real Southern California locations.

Hard's special features include Q&A sessions between the filmmakers and festival audiences, in which the film's gay cop technical advisors detail their own painful experiences trying to be out on the job in such virulently homophobic departments as the LAPD. *Hard* should be taken up as a campaign document to be used in questioning LA Mayor Hahn during his reelection effort, in particular regarding a long outstanding lawsuit filed on behalf of actual and potential LA queer police officers.

The Q&As and director and

cast commentaries reveal amusing tidbits, including the fact that an actor, disguised as a murder victim, was temporarily placed in a real morgue body-cooler which contained an actual corpse on a shelf below. The bargain-basement filmmaking also caused there to be only one patrol car at the crime locations and only one police badge available for the entire shoot. This fact becomes the basis for a very dark bit of humor when the badge is stolen by the killer and left in an especially incriminating place for the cops to find.

Finally, no other DVD in release is likely to contain dialogue as racy as these lines overheard in the film's police locker room.

"Hey, Sullivan, your new wife

[partner] is here."

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"No woman I've ever known is capable of giving me a proper blow job the way a queer can." ▼

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The face in the mirror

'Barbra Streisand Collection' out on DVD

by Tavo Amador

Has any star been as obsessed with her looks as Barbra Streisand seems to have been? Marlene Dietrich, perhaps, but in a different way. Dietrich learned about lighting and costumes to ensure that her screen image reflected her cultivated allure, and, as she grew older, to create the illusion of youth. Streisand, for much of her career, has demanded acknowledgment that she is indeed attractive, perhaps even beautiful, while reluctantly conceding she doesn't fit the classic Hollywood glamour mold. Her ongoing need for validation is reminiscent of Joan Crawford's. The recently released *Barbra Streisand Collection* DVD containing *The Way We Were* ('73), *The Prince of Tides* ('91), and *The Mirror Has Two Faces* ('96), allows the viewer to see how, over a 20-year period, she addressed the question of her appearance.

The Way We Were is by far the best of the three films. Katie Morosky (Streisand) and Hubbell Robinson (Robert Redford) meet in college in 1936, run into each other again during World War II, and begin a tempestuous romance that results in marriage. He's the blonde beauty, winner of an athletic scholarship and a terrific writer, who runs with elegant, rich WASPs. His girlfriend Carol Ann (Lois Chiles) is pretty and vapid.

Katie, on the other hand, is working-class Jewish, and never met a left-wing cause she didn't stridently espouse. Their falling in love is improbable enough to ring true.

Streisand is at her best, conveying her love for Hubbell and her disbelief that such a gorgeous guy could fall for a Jewish girl who's attractive, "but not that attractive. My style is wrong," as she says. She's passionate about her politics and her belief in him as a writer. She refuses to condone his selling out to Hollywood. Her hair is a metaphor for acceptance: in college, it's curly and a bit unruly. When she reconnects with Hubbell, it's wavy — she has it "ironed." After their divorce and her remarriage, it's curly again.

But the movie works because of Redford. We see what he sees: Katie is engaged, devoted, opinionated, often humorless, sometimes sanctimonious, intelligent, funny, and throbbing with life. He's reserved, too willing to take the easy way, not wanting to turn everything into a struggle. We can understand his falling in love with her, finding her desirable, recognizing her worth, yet ultimately being worn out by her intensity. He gives the most heartbreaking performance of his career, and brings out her vulnerability in ways she would never show again.

Sydney Pollack directed superbly from Arthur Laurents' original screenplay. With Bradford Dillman, Murray Hamilton, Herb

Edelman, Viveca Lindfors, James Woods, and Sally Kirkland, Streisand sings the Oscar-winning title song.

Streisand directed the adaptation of Pat Conroy's *Prince of Tides*, and plays Susan Lowenstein, an elegant Manhattan psychiatrist with a snobbish husband (Jeroen Krabbe) and son (Jason Gould, her real-life son by first husband Elliot Gould). Her patient, Savannah Wingo (Melinda Dillon), attempts suicide, and Savannah's twin brother Tom (Nick Nolte) offers her emotional support. Tom helps Susan assess Savannah's problems, and the two fall in love. He's plagued by his difficult mother (Kate Nelligan) and a traumatic event that he's never been able to discuss. Streisand looks stylish, and works hard to convince us she is warm, loving, conflicted; a chic, glamorous, beautiful earth-mother whose long dormant passions Tom re-awakens. Perhaps if she weren't so insistent, we'd believe it. Nolte gives a remarkably sensitive performance, and Streisand gets fine work from the rest of the cast.

In *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, which she also directed, Streisand gives full reign to what must have been a long-standing desire to be a great, conventional beauty. She plays plain, pudgy, brilliant college English professor Rose Morgan, whose pretty, vapid sister Claire (Mimi Rogers) is marrying handsome Alex (Pierce Brosnan), the object of Rose's unspoken desire.

Rose lives with her mother Hannah (Lauren Bacall), who had been a great beauty. Brainy math professor Gregory Larkin (Jeff Bridges) finds Rose's intellectual qualities appealing, and he proposes a platonic marriage. Rose accepts, but while he's away, transforms herself: dieting, working out, redoing her hair, in an effort to become the proverbial swan and arouse Gregory's carnal passions. One can hardly blame her: Bridges looks quite hot. But this vanity production run amok is filled with unintentional, campy humor. Streisand's before-and-after contrast isn't dramatic, regardless of what she or the other characters say. Only Bacall survives the debacle. When Rose asks her how it felt to have been so beautiful, Hannah replies, "It was wonderful."

Streisand should have realized that her talent and conviction have made her a far greater star, as



measured by professional durability and box-office clout, than most legendary Hollywood beauties. Perhaps now that she has married the classically handsome James Brolin, she can ease up — she's proven her point about being desirable and attractive. In the newly issued *Meet the Fockers*, her first movie in nine years, she's relaxed and warm, with curly/frizzy hair. Let's hope it's a sign of more to come, because she's a splendid comedienne, and the world needs laughter. ▼

Know it all

Oscar trivia quiz answers

by Tavo Amador

Here are all the answers you've been waiting for, to our Academy Awards trivia quiz from last issue.

1. Walter Brennan, Best Supporting Oscar winner ('36, '38, '40)
2. Katharine Hepburn, with four for Best Actress ('33, '67, '68, '81)
3. Katharine Hepburn, with 12
4. Meryl Streep, with nine losing nominations
5. Meryl Streep, with 13
6. Spencer Tracy, Laurence Olivier, and Jack Nicholson, with nine
7. Laurence Olivier, with eight
8. Joan Fontaine ('41) and Olivia de Havilland ('46, '49)
9. Lionel Barrymore, Best Actor, '31/32, and Ethel Barrymore, Best Supporting Actress, '44
10. c) Audrey Hepburn
11. Shirley MacLaine: Around the World in 80 Days ('56), The Apartment ('60), Terms of Endearment ('83)
12. b) Cabaret
13. Grand Hotel ('31/32)
14. Mildred Pierce ('45), which earned Joan Crawford the Best Actress Oscar
15. a) Warren Beatty
16. Shirley MacLaine: Around the World in 80 Days ('56), The Apartment ('60), Terms of Endearment ('83)
17. Clark Gable: It Happened One Night ('34), Mutiny on the Bounty ('35), Gone With the Wind ('39)
18. c) Frederic March
19. It Happened One Night ('34), One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest ('75), and Silence of the Lambs ('91)
20. A Streetcar Named Desire ('51) and Network ('76); each with three
21. Tennessee Williams. Total nominations: 19: Streetcar Named Desire ('51), 4: The Rose Tattoo ('55), 2: Baby Doll ('56), 2: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof ('58), 2: Suddenly, Last Summer ('59), 2: Summer and Smoke ('61), 2: The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone ('61), 1: Sweet Bird of Youth ('62), 3: Night of the Iguana ('64), 1: Winners ('68), Leigh, Karl Malden, Kim Hunter, A Streetcar Named Desire ('51); Anna Magnani, The Rose Tattoo ('55), Ed Begley, Sweet Bird of Youth ('62)
22. John Ford ('35, '40, '41, '52)
23. William Wyler, with 12
24. None
25. c) Ingrid Bergman (Best Actress,

[The quiz author thanks B.A.R. colleague Matthew Kennedy for his careful vetting of this quiz. Any errors are the author's.]

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Becoming Elizabeth Taylor

New DVD collection shows her transformation

by Tavo Amador

Even the oldest baby boomers can't remember when Elizabeth Taylor wasn't famous. She began as an angelic child actress, blossomed into the quintessential American bourgeois princess, matured into her era's greatest beauty, pushed the limits of sexual frankness on screen, won two Best Actress Academy Awards, had a string of highly publicized marriages, became the first celebrity AIDS advocate and unequaled fund-raiser before her present incarnation as an infirm, bawdy but revered grande dame whose court testimony may help her beleaguered friend Michael Jackson. The recently issued *Elizabeth Taylor Collection* on DVD shows how her image evolved from 1945 to '60, setting the stage for another 45 years of fame.

Taylor (b.'32) had made four films before MGM gave her *National Velvet* ('45). As Velvet Brown, an exquisite English girl obsessed with entering her beloved horse, "The Pie," in the National Steeplechase, she gave a natural, touching performance and became a star, creating the ideal image of female pre-adolescence. She would later say playing Velvet wasn't acting — she loved animals and completely identified with the character. The movie remains fresh and charming because of her. Directed by Clarence Brown from Enid Bagnold's novel. With Mickey Rooney, first billed, as a horse trainer, Angela Lansbury, Donald Crisp, and Anne Revere, who won a Best Supporting Oscar as Velvet's stern

but loving mother.

Spencer Tracy is excellent as the harassed *Father of the Bride* ('50), Vincente Minnelli's warm comedy about an upper-class suburban family dealing with the emotional and logistical issues triggered by the wedding of their remarkably pretty daughter (Taylor). Tracy and Taylor have real chemistry and make the father-daughter relationship believable, giving the film enduring charm. As she had in *National Velvet*, Taylor reveals an independent streak beneath her lovely face and good manners. Joan Bennett does well as the mother whose daughter is eclipsing her. Don Taylor is the pleasant groom, and his parents are delightfully played by Leo G. Carroll and Billie Burke. MGM released the movie to coincide with Taylor's highly-publicized real-life first marriage to hotel heir Nicky Hilton, which helped the film become a major hit.

As Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* ('58), Taylor stunned critics and audiences with her ferocious portrayal of a love- and sex-starved wife in this censored but still powerful, often caustic version of Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize-winning play. Filming was briefly interrupted after her third husband, producer Mike Todd, died in a private plane crash, and perhaps this tragedy helped Taylor convey Maggie's desperate loneliness. Hunky Paul Newman is sensational as her estranged husband, Brick, who drinks too much and is haunted by the memory of his dead best friend, Skipper, whose ghost Maggie is determined to slay. Burl Ives gives a towering performance as fatally ill Big Daddy, the self-made

multi-millionaire. Judith Anderson is touching as fatuous, good-natured Big Momma. Jack Carson is heart-breaking as the neglected older brother, and Madeline Sherwood unforgettable portrays his bitchy, greedy wife, whom Maggie calls "that monster of fertility, Mae," because she's given birth to countless little "no-neck monsters." Sharply directed by Richard Brooks, whose screenplay subtly suggests the homosexual issues driving Brick to the bottle. Critics praised Taylor's acting as much as her beauty, and she earned her second Oscar nomination, losing to Susan Hayward in *I Want To Live*. The movie was a smash.

Sleep over

If proper American matrons who adored the child and teenage screen Taylor were shocked by her Maggie — and they were — they were outraged by her real life. In '59, she married singer Eddie Fisher, who began his affair with her while wed to Debbie Reynolds. When asked by vicious gossip columnist Hedda Hopper why she had "stolen" another woman's husband, Taylor replied, "Was I supposed to sleep alone?"

Capitalizing on her notoriety, which increased her box-office clout, MGM cast her as Gloria Wandrous in *Butterfield 8*, from John O'Hara's novel. (The title refers to a telephone answering-service.) Taylor loathed the film, but owed the studio one picture under her long-term contract. Once finished, she would be free to earn record sums from Twentieth Century Fox for *Cleopatra* ('63). Gloria is a model who sleeps around, yet can't be bought. She falls for a married man (Laurence

Harvey), changes her ways, but their affair ends tragically. Daniel Mann directed. Taylor is mesmerizing, far better than the picture, which is a fascinating guilty pleasure. Harvey, however, must have studied acting under Victor Mature: in dramatic moments, he looks constipated. Dina Merrill is his noble wife. Mildred Dunnock scores as Gloria's mother, slapping her when she says, "Face it, I was the slut of all time." Betty Field is excellent as Gloria's sharp-tongued neighbor. At Taylor's insistence, Fisher replaced David Jansen in the role of her best friend, and he's dreadful. Shot on location in Manhattan, which looks as glorious as Taylor. After completing the picture, Taylor began *Cleopatra* in London, came



down with pneumonia, and was given an hour to live. Amidst unparalleled media coverage, she recovered, returning home to collect her first Best Actress Oscar for *Butterfield 8*.

Cleopatra would resume shooting in Rome, where she would dump Fisher for married co-star Richard Burton, ushering in yet more scandalous headlines while increasing her box-office appeal. ▼

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again, that you don't have to be French (let alone mystic Catholic) to insinuate yourself into Messiaen's singular sound world. But in the Berlin Philharmonic's new recording of Messiaen's final work for full orchestra, *Éclairs sur l'Autel* (*Illuminations of the Beyond*) under Simon Rattle (EMI), these Germans under this Brit miss the bateau. It's all there and nowhere at the same time. Myung-Whun Chung's Orchestre de l'Opéra Bastille (DG) remains unmatched in this piece. ▼

Messiaen CDs

◀ page 32

Catholic content of virtually everything he wrote. You don't have to share his faith in order to appreciate the works, but neither can you discount it. The musicians who treat it as that nebulous entity, "pure music," never fully capture it. Osborne does.

Amen corner

In history as well as on the San Francisco concert calendar, *Visions de l'Amen* is the curtain-raiser for *Vingt Regards*. It was composed in 1943 during the Nazi occupation of Paris, and given its premiere that May by Messiaen and the 19-year-old Loriod (who, as Osborne does on the CD, played the Piano I part). *Vingt Regards* followed the next year.

The seven movements of the *Visions* explore in Messiaen's characteristic fashion his understanding of the meaning of "Amen," which he writes about as having four meanings, among them "so be it, the creative act," and, "I submit, I accept." The movements trace the arc from the very act of divine creation itself through a harsh, apocalyptic Judgment to a Consummation in Paradise that reprises the creation music.

Like all of the composer's great piano scores, it ranges across the extremes of the physical keyboard (here, two of them) and the instrument's dynamic range. It goes from music so ethereal it approaches inaudibility to cacophony.

ties of unsparring harshness, with whiffs of both the organ loft and the jazz club. The score's sheer density makes chord-voicing one of the supreme challenges of playing this music properly, and Osborne is masterful at it.

While he's capable of almost interstellar coolness, he's at his most impressive in the passages that require execution by hands on fire. Messiaen has a habit of placing the central passages of his long works in the natural place, the middle. In *Visions*, the fourth Vision is the "Amen of Desire," functioning as what Yeats might call the "perne in a gyre," "coming from the inner fire."

It's played with spell-binding intensity by Osborne and Roscoe, particularly in the passages Messiaen described as "vehement" — "Here the soul is drawn by a terrible love that attains the paroxysm of thirst." That may seem one of those impenetrable Messiaenic pronouncements, until you hear Osborne attaining that paroxysm with the kind of abandon only supreme technical control makes possible.

Further evidence that the young pianist is relaxing into his massive talent comes in the three short works from the 1930s that fill out the CD, the *Pièce pour le tombeau de Paul Dukas* (Messiaen's teacher), Rondeau et Fataisie burlesque. The composer's mild attempts to distance himself from this lighter music have gratefully failed, and Osborne's spunk performances provide all the validation they need.

The Scottish pianist proves,

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Breaking down the silent closet

Gay-themed films of German silent era are out on DVD

by David Nahmod

Kino Video, the NYC-based DVD company dedicated to the preservation and restoration of silent films, has been a godsend to film buffs. Many long-unseen films, believed lost for all time, are now available for viewing thanks to the company's efforts. Many of their titles are

being released in newly remastered, restored director's cuts, based on existing notes and records from the films' production files.

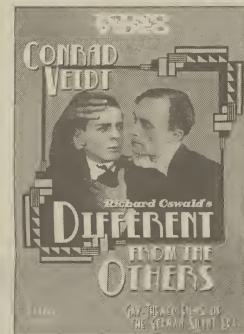
In the case of three new releases the company has issued under the banner *Gay-Themed Films of the German Silent Era*, Kino is preserving more than film. They are preserving, for future generations to study, the work of long-gone

gay artists, a piece of our community's history.

The three films were all made in Germany during the Weimar era, that brief period between the First and Second World Wars when Berlin became the world's gay capital. During these years, there was an unheard-of sexual tolerance. People came out, dressed in drag, proclaimed their love for each other. The era also boasted an artistic freedom of expression not previously seen in European history.

All this ended in the early 1930s with the rise of Hitler and the Nazis. More than one million LGBT people were slaughtered along with six million Jews, and millions of others the Nazis deemed "undesirable."

These three films, all on DVD for the first time, all rarely screened in recent years, are a rare look back at one of the few times in history when gay filmmakers were able to openly express themselves.



Different from the Others (1919) (50 min.)

Different from the Others is believed to be the first gay-themed feature in film history. It was a collaboration between director Richard Oswald and Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, one of the world's first gay activists. Long before Kinsey, Dr. Hirschfeld (1868-1935) openly called for tolerance towards gays. He counselled gay men and lesbians on self-love and self-acceptance, calling homosexuals "the third sex," a separate gender that was unjustly subjected to hatred and discrimination. He called for an end to Paragraph 175, the harsh German laws that criminalized homosexuality, laws that were not repealed until the mid-1990s.

Dr. Hirschfeld himself appears in the film; as himself, lecturing at a university about his beliefs. Bay Area viewers watching the film today may find these scenes a bit preachy, and preaching to the converted at that. As is always the case, you have to judge a film in the context of the time it was

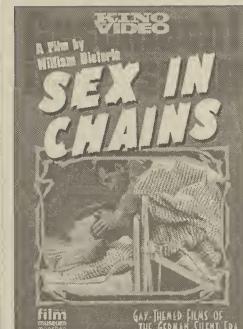
made. In 1919, Hirschfeld's speeches were a daring, courageous step forward.

The film was ordered destroyed by the German government. Now it exists only in fragments. Kino's superb print runs a scant 50 minutes, a little more than half the original running time. What's left is magical.

The simple story of a famed concert violinist, Paul Körner (Conrad Veidt), facing a blackmailer who has fallen deeply in love with his young male protege, *Different from the Others* goes much

genuine light in every shot he's in. He is beautiful and otherworldly, a dream lover brought to life.

The film's most interesting interlude comes where Zoret attempts to paint the Countess' portrait. He cannot capture her eyes. He sits for days, lost, unable to finish his work. All his previous paintings were of men, and it seems that he simply cannot see into a woman's soul. It is the bisexual Michael who steps in and finishes the painting. Michael, who loves both men and women, is able to look into the Countess' eyes and see what Zoret sees.



Sex in Chains (1928) (100 mins.)

Though superbly done, *Sex in Chains* is not a gay-themed film. It is actually a call for prison reform.

Director/star William Dieterle, later a Hollywood director, is unjustly imprisoned after he accidentally kills a man who is sexually harassing his wife (Mary Johnson).

Three years in prison takes their toll on the couple. Eventually, out of sheer desperation, he has sex with his cellmate; for the same reason, she has an affair with her employer. Afterward, both are wracked with guilt.

Though there is one, brief gay sexual interlude, *Sex in Chains* isn't a gay film. The characters aren't gay, and no attempt is made to present them as such.

The film is nonetheless extremely well-made, and superbly acted. It's a much-needed call for prison reform that's still topical today. Far too many prisoners are doing long, hard time for minor offenses, or for defending themselves or their loved ones against violence, as is the case here. *Sex in Chains* beautifully illustrates the damage this can do to people's psyches.

Kino presents all three films full-screen. For films as old as these, the prints are wonderful. There are piano scores for each film, and English subtitles. *Michael* features an insightful commentary track from Danish film scholar Casper Tyberg, which is the set's only extra. ▼

Out There

◀ page 30

The late, late hour of 8:30 p.m. arrives. Daring duo **Dusty Hoffman** and **Barbra Streisand**, big as a house, get all hammy and draw out the Best Picture award. "And the Oscar goes to..." Someone at our table shouts out, "Meet the Fockers!"

Finally the inevitable happens, **Clint Eastwood** gets his golden neutered guy, so we can all go home now. Our tux has only just begun to resemble a state faintly

resembling dry.

Tee up, teed off

If you're headed out to Palm Springs for the annual **Dinah Shore** weekend (March 25-27), have we got a book for you. *Dinah! Three Decades of Sex, Golf, and Rock 'n' Roll* (Out Traveler) is a guide to the world's biggest lesbian pool party/golf tournament.

Writes *Dinah!* author **Michele Kort**, "I've come to think of the Dinah Shore Golf Tournament—with or without the golf—as our Sapphic rite of spring. I think of it as the queer set's own Fort Laud-

erdale, the famous Florida spring break destination. It's *Where the Girls Are*, the dyke flip side of the classic 1960 film, *Where the Boys Are*."

Sounds like a lesbian circuit party, with (golf) balls. One Dinah habitué interviewed in the book calls the golf tournament "the ultimate bondué, because you had to be so quiet. Everyone's walking around with their cocktails, but you can't even have the ice clinking in your glass. Here you are, with all the sporty babes, and you have to be totally silent."

page 43 ►

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BOOKS

He made us feel mighty real

Fab new biography of SF disco legend Sylvester

by Joe E. Jeffreys

He had a sound and a look that once heard and seen are not easily or willingly forgotten. Mixed with some irresistible beats and slinky disco synth-pop effects, his soaring falsetto on such driving dance hits as "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)," "Dance (Disco Heat)" and "Do Ya Wanna Funk" topped music charts internationally. He was Sylvester, and he was fabulous.

So is Joshua Gamson's new biography of the disco legend, *The Fabulous Sylvester: The Legend, The Music, The Seventies in San Francisco* (Henry Holt, \$26). Gamson's sharp, insightful writing matches the zest for life, music and love that was Sylvester, and paints a thoughtful, mighty real portrait of the androgynous black man behind the glitter. Song lyrics, interviews with family and friends, and plenty of gossip and anecdotes interweave the book.

It's a must-read for anyone who has ever danced in the heat of Sylvester's disco beat.

If you are a San Francisco gentleman of a certain age and ilk, then you witnessed and lived large portions of this myth. For the remainder and the generations to come, Gamson does a remarkable job hitting all the landmarks and many surprising byways in Sylvester's post-'70s SF-based life: Sylvester's entanglement with the Cockettes, his performances in the bars and clubs worldwide starting in those of LA and SF like the Elephant Walk, his first accidental dance hit from a repertoire of old blues and jazz songs, boyfriends and tricks along the way, his unforgettable back-up girls from the Pointer Sisters to Two Tons of Fun (aka The Weather Girls), unbelievable behind-the-scenes stories from his sold-out '79 concert at the War Memorial Auditorium, his bouts of "extreme divativity" and everyday kindness, his "I'm-not-political" work for various AIDS causes, his last gay pride parade in

a wheelchair, and his death in '88 from AIDS. SF's gay history and culture from Harvey Milk through the early days of AIDS in the city comprises a strong secondary figure in the biography, and Gamson dubs his primary subject "gay San Francisco's ambassador to American culture."

He was that and then some. Sylvester's pre-SF days in LA, when he was known as Dooni, from his birth to a teen mom in Watts to his pre-teen days in the church, where he first explored music and had sex as a boy of eight with a choir leader, to his teen years as a shining member of the Disquotays, a gang of tough-stylin' street queens, are eye-opening.

Doooni graduates high school at 22, glamorous. During the Watts Riots, the Disquotays looted only hairspray, lipstick and wigs. Gamson's information on these rough days, little-known years of the soon-to-be Sylvester's life, goes a long way towards an understanding of the survivor.

Aside from spryly telling a wild

ride of a life story, Gamson, a sociology professor at the University of San Francisco, whose previous books considered fame and dissected American talk-show culture, does his best work in the biography when he places and considers Sylvester in larger historical, social, sexual, musical and aesthetic contexts. What makes fabulosity and realness, what blackness and gayness have to do with it, are aspects that Gamson nimbly explores in relation to his subject. He explains why "a black guy wearing womanly clothing and singing gospel disco like a sexed-up church girl" was embraced and became a worldwide icon from within the Castro's then hypermasculine Clone culture. Gamson writes Sylvester's look "was about gender, and it was about fucking, but it was pretty much the opposite of genderfucking."

When Sylvester was pleased with the way a show had gone, he would say "we had service," meaning that he felt the performance had transported him and the audience into religious, ecstatic realms. St. Sylvester, blessed with the heavenly falsetto-growl, is up for grabs, but Gamson reveals his warts and flaws, all the while offering insight beyond mere hagiography. Far from a cardboard saint, the Sylvester Gamson offers in *The Fabulous Sylvester* coruscates blackness, gayness, realness, and ultimately a transcendent, everyday fabulosity. Read this fabulous biography and have service. ▼



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Gamson will read and sign at SF's A Different Light, March 10 at 7 p.m.

Exposing a convenient media myth

Keith Boykin goes 'Beyond the Down Low' on sex, lies & denial

by Matthew S. Bajko

Tis the Chicken Little story of our time, black women becoming infected with HIV due to black men on the down low. And the mainstream media is the one screaming that the sky is falling.

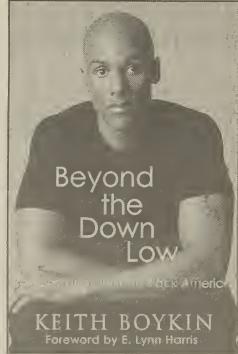
So argues Keith Boykin in his new book *Beyond the Down Low: Sex, Lies and Denial in Black America* (Carroll & Graf, \$16.50). In it, Boykin deconstructs the myth that black men secretly having sex with other men are in turn infecting black women, and are therefore the main culprits behind the spread of AIDS within the black community.

"This is a story about lies," Boykin warns the reader.

One of the biggest lies about the down low story is that the phenomenon is new. To Boykin, men and women of all races have been engaging in down low behavior for decades. What is new about it, he argues, is that the media has latched on to it as a new angle to write about AIDS in the black community.

"By 2001, the down low was old news to me, but for the mass media it was the beginning of a profitable period of exploitation of black grief," charges Boykin. "To some in the media, the down low seemed the missing link to explain the AIDS epidemic in the black community."

Reviewing that coverage under the title "A Story With No Proof," Boykin finds nothing in the reporting to support the theory about down low behavior being to blame for black women contracting HIV. His review of the articles published in numerous newspapers from across the country finds no statistics to support the premise, nor does he find a credible example of a black woman who is HIV-positive due to her male partner sleeping with men.



are among the highest in the country.

But, like the media whom he charges has twisted the focus from those men to black women, Boykin himself never really answers why that is. For his book's last half, Boykin examines black women's role in perpetuating the down low myth; how black churches have neglected to care for their congregations by not speaking openly about sex and AIDS; and how hip hop imagery and music as well as black athletes and sports impact the way black gay men view themselves.

Missing is a frank discussion about gay black men and what is fueling the spread of HIV within their own communities. According to statistics cited by Boykin, gay and bi black men are less likely to have unprotected sex than other minority groups. So why

are they then more likely to be HIV-infected?

It's a question Boykin does not spend much time answering. A gay black man himself, Boykin could have delved deeper into his own community to find the answer and unearthed what he complains the media has failed to report. He falls into the same trap he charges the media of doing,

focusing solely on how King and countless journalists have inflated the down low lifestyle into a convenient story to sell books and papers, but never fully examining why gay black men continue to contract HIV at a disproportionately high rate.

That story still lies somewhere beyond the down low myth, waiting to be written. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

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The CLUB Scene @ The ENDUP

Juanita mia!

I have a crush on Juanita MORE!, and would love nothing more than to see her atop some grand float parading down Market Street, surrounded as always by her doting entourage, the golden Boys, their splendid muscles glistening in the sun. Of course Juanita would be decked out in another of those dazzling gowns by the legendary designer Mr. David (aka Glamamore), and she'd be waving regally to the cheering, rainbow adorned masses.

"Flattering me with the honor of being a Community Individual nominee for the SF LGBT Pride Parade will get you my love, gratitude, and lipstick traces," Juanita coos.

What has she done to deserve such a gay honor? For starters, she's made San Francisco fabulous. Isn't that enough? She gets dolled up in stylish couture and throws great parties with attractive people. Since she's surrounded by artists, she gives them exposure. And since she's a capable studio photographer herself, who focuses mainly on her posse of willing studs, she throws popular openings for exhibits of her own work. Her arrival at any club, More Boys in tow, signals the place is going to be a hit that night.

The highlight of Juanita's year comes when she helps to organize and hosts the annual gala fundraiser for the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (TARC), which is a terrific nonprofit organization at the forefront of combating the spread of HIV/AIDS among the city's most vulnerable populations, by way of thoughtful, progressive harm-reduction strategies and programs.

Juanita's un-drag name is Michael Rodrigues, and in person he's as nice as can be, a good man who values community, cooks up gourmet meals for his friends in his tiny but chic Tenderloin studio apartment, displays excellent taste in artwork, possesses a compact but impressive drag closet, and he loves playing records at parties.

Speaking of which, "Are you going to *The CLUB Scene?*" That's the question everyone's asking, referring to Juanita MORE!'s *The CLUB Scene*, which debuts this Saturday, March 6 at The ENDUP. It's the party to be at, Juanita says, and be *scene* at! It's brought to you by Juanita, Dave Peterson and Jose Mineros, and it aims to attract and entertain transsexuals, drag queens, freaks, midgets, muscles, skinnies, big tits & li'l dicks and everybody else. She urges everyone to dress for the runway, so get your style on. Music will be provided by Juanita, DJ Derek B, and Dave Peterson. There'll be a live performance by Deranged Pussy.

A club-goer knows, Ms. MORE! has been a fixture at the ENDUP for ages, plus Juanita has been performing since the start at Heklina's *Trannyshack*, which recently celebrated its 9-Year Anniversary. *The CLUB Scene* is Juanita's latest venture, and is not to be missed. They'll ask a \$7 cover and will offer \$2 well drinks from 10 p.m. to midnight. The club runs from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m., and you must be 21+ with ID to attend. The ENDUP is at 401 Sixth St. at Harrison. Details at: www.juanitamore.com ▼



Antony & The Johnsons play the Great American Music Hall. See Friday.

Fri 4

Antony and the Johnsons @ Great American Music Hall

Antony & The Johnsons rock San Francisco as part of their record-release tour for *I Am A Bird Now*. The CD features the unique sounds of gender-bent vocalists/keyboardist Antony (voice, piano, organ) backed up by Todd Cohen (drums), Julia Kent (cello), Maxim Mostov (violin), Joan Wasser (violin), Jeff Langston (bass), Jason Hart (piano), and others, with contributions by Rufus Wainwright, Devendra Banhart, Lou Reed & Boy George. CocoRosie opens. \$16 gen'l admission (seated), \$35.95 dinner ticket. Doors 8pm, show 9pm. GAMH, 859 O'Farrell St. Tix: 415-478-2277; Tickets.com outlets including Rasputin Music & Giant Dugouts.

Dan Rothenberg's Regretrosexual @ Phoenix Theater

Regretrosexual, a one-man exploration of the depth and breadth of human sexuality by former SF stand-up comedy favorite Dan Rothenberg. A hilarious contemplation on the fluidity of sexuality and how it effects those caught in the middle. Two nights only; three performances. \$15 gen'l adm. 8pm Fri., Mar. 4; 8pm & 10pm Sat., Mar. 5. The Phoenix Arts Association Theater, 414 Mason, 6th Floor. Info: 415-820-1457; regretrosexual@yahoo.com

FAMILY JEWELS—The Making of Veronica Klaus @ EXIT Theater

World Premiere: Steinbeck Presents *Family Jewels* — *The Making of Veronica Klaus*. Co-created and directed by Jeffery Hartgraves. *Family Jewels* tells all the juicy details of Veronica's metamorphosis from husky Midwestern boy to voluptuous Chanteuse. \$20 Adult; \$18 Senior; \$17 Theatre Bay Area. 8pm showtime. Runs Thu., Fri. & Sat. thru March 12. EXIT Theater, 156 Eddy St. at Mason. Tix: 866-811-4111 or 415-820-1565; www.steinbeckpresents.org

Not About Nightingales @ Theatre Rhinoceros

The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros presents *Not About Nightingales* by Tennessee Williams. The play follows the events of a prison atrocity, which shocked the nation. It's a political piece of theatre about social injustice. Featuring: Florianna Alessandria, David Bicha, Pete Caslavka, Bart Foley, Paul Hammonds, Cheree A. Sager, Wilton Young, John Fisher, Director. 8pm. Runs thru March 13. The Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Tix: 415-861-5079; [www.therhinoceros.org](http://therhinoceros.org)

Dandelion Danceheater, Patrick Cress & Nancy Ostrovsky @ ODC Theater

Double Feature: Dandelion Danceheater, Patrick Cress, and Nancy Ostrovsky present a collision of dance, theater, music, video and painting examining notions of self and other, detachment and obsession, featuring more than 20 dancers, including special guests: Element Dance Theater and Navarre & Kajiyama Dance Theater. 8pm. You/ther/Octagon, new works by Kimiko Guthrie and Eric Kupers. 9:30pm: Coal

Beautiful @ Cellspace

Elastic Future presents *Beautiful* — A Theatrical Party. Love and corsets in a private world of sex, drag and rock and roll. But who's that at the window? Shadowy creatures bent on ruining our heroes' fun forever! Who will protect their little Eden while they're all in bed? *Beautiful* is the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* of the experimental theatre world. Environmental, deconstructionist art with cross dressing, cartoonish evil villains, and a lot of leg. It's a work with drag (king and queen), pansexual group sex, and ever-changing gender roles. Tickets \$15 (\$5 off in Drag, Runs March 4&5 at 8pm; March 6 at 7pm; and March 10 at 8pm. All Performance @ Cellspace, 2050 Bryant at 18th St. Info: <http://www.elasticfuture.com>

THRIVE @ The LGBT Center

The LGBT Center - 1800 Market (@ Octavia) First Floor Room: Q13 Saturday, March 5, 123 pm. Thrive; a social group of guys; gay HIV+, breaking the isolation of HIV and not only surviving the disease, but thriving in spite of it. Donation suggested. More information and other social events, join our email list: thriving-subscribe@ya-hoogroups.com

'Paint What You Want' @ John Pence Gallery

In a tribute to departing gallery staff member Ross Martineau, the stable of artists in the John Pence Gallery were invited to "Paint What You Want" in Martineau's honor. The results will be on display at the opening reception on Fri., Mar. 4 from 6-8pm, including Will Wilson's oil on canvas portrait of Martineau, baring all and lifting weights, titled "Survival of the Fittest." The gallery is open Mon.-Fri. from 10am-6pm, and Sat. 10am-5pm. John Pence Gallery, 750 Post St. Info: 415-441-1138; www.johnpence.com

Uphill Both Ways On Ice @ The Dark Room Theater

Uphill Both Ways returns to The Dark Room Theater with an all new comedy show, *Uphill Both Ways On Ice*, a seven minute show featuring new comedy sketches. Whether it's a faux pas at a cocktail party, bad synchronized skating of politicians, or the funeral of a mafia don, *Uphill Both Ways On Ice* promises to be a hilarious. Featuring Colin Benoit, Alex Blagg, Jack Daniel, and Dave McKew. *Uphill Both Ways On Ice* begins its run on Fri., March 4 at 10pm at the Dark Room Theater (2263 Mission at 19th Street). Tickets are \$10. Info: www.uphillbothways.com

Circo Zero

@ Dance Mission Theater

The Dance Brigade's Dance Mission Theater and Circo Zero present two new works of experimental circus and performance. *CHOLEN*, a solo performance by Keith Hennessy, and *MERCY*, hardcore lyrical circus by Circo Zero, featuring acrobat/contortionist Jade-blue Eclipse, aerialist/vocalist Susan Voyticky, shamanic fool Seth Eisen ale Butterskotch, dancer/vocalist Maryann Brooks, aerialist/acrobats, Brett WOMACK with electronic composer Marc KATE, and director Keith Hennessy. "Fine Print: A little bit of nudity, lots of underwear, and mature themes — war, Israel, depression, Abu Ghraib, transcendence, queer midlife — make this inappropriate for most children and some adults. \$15. 8pm. Fri-Sun, thru Mar 6. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 - 24th St. (at Mission). Tix/info: 415-273-4633; www.circzero.org

Camus' The Just

@ Ashby Stage, Berkeley

Opening night: Shotgun Players present *The Just* by Albert Camus, translated by Tom Hoover, directed by Patrick Dooley. In a small apt. overlooking a street where the Grand Duke will pass on his way to the theater, a group of Russian revolutionaries stand at grim attention, waiting to end his life in the name of justice. In a severe and passionate examination of a factual assassination during the 1905 Russian Revolution, Camus dramatizes the minds of men and women more than willing to die for their cause. ▶ finds unexpected nobility and



"People at Work" by Nathan Baker, opening March 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary St. Call 415-421-0122 or visit nathanbaker.com

Nathan Baker

chilling detachment in the behavior of these desperate seekers after justice. Previews: March 1 & 2. Opening night March 3. Pay-What-You-Can thru March 6. \$10-\$30 March 10 thru April 10. 8pm. The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley.

Sat 5

Tina's Café/Tweak Project @ Magnet

Opening reception: Celebutante chanteuse Tom Orr hosts a special edition of Tina's Café and a celebration of the "Tweak Projects" hanging at Magnet. Check out the art and experience shock and awe as Tina, the gal whose name is on everyone's lips, tells you all you want and need to know about her namesake substance. Tina's Café is a social event and show for queer men who are talking about, thinking about, or tackling crystal use. DJ Steve Fabus will spin, and this month's performers will wow you with their work. Using speed? Cutting back? Abstinent? Stop by and check it out. Refreshments galore. Free. 8-11pm. Magnet, 4122 18th St. Info: tweaker.org

SF Hiking Club

@ Hills of San Francisco

Join us for a city hike that will encompass some of the most scenic hills and valleys of SF. It's a moderate 8-mile hike with a 1,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:45am at Harvey Milk Plaza, Castro & Market sts. Info: www.sfhiking.com

Gay Film Festival

@ Los Altos High School

The Gay/Straight Alliance at Los Altos High will be hosting its second Gay Film Festival on March 5 from noon-9pm in the Eagle Theatre on campus, at 201 Almond Avenue, Los Altos. The festival is open to the public. Suggested donation at the door will be \$5 per movie or \$15 for an all day pass for four movies. The money will go towards educating the public on gay youth issues, and to a scholarship in the name of Eddie "Gwen" Araujo, created to help a senior member of the school's Gay Straight Alliance (GSA). Questions, call Ruth at Los Altos High School, 650-960-8473.

Other Cinema @ ATA Gallery

On Sat., March 5, A.T.A. Gallery's "Other Cinema" hosts globe-trotting photographer Mark Brecke, just back from Sudan with a revelatory slide presentation, *Witness in Darfur*, with documentary evidence of the severity of the human catastrophe. Also: *The Spectre of Hope*, a long-form tribute to world-renowned Brazilian photo-essayist Sebastião Salgado, a visual poet of the planet's impoverished masses, in which Salgado critiques globalization with British art critic John Berger. \$5. 8pm showtime. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. Info: 415-824-3890; www.othercinema.com.

Kundalini Yoga @ Plymouth Church, Oakland

Kundalini Yoga Chakra Awareness Series begins today at Plymouth Church, an LGBT welcoming and affirming congregation in Oakland-Piedmont. Each week centers on one chakra. All ages, no pressure yoga. Wear loose clothing, bring a mat or towel and empty stomach. Beginners welcome. 8-week session only \$40. Ten percent benefits a Ugandan AIDS orphanage. 10am, 424 Monte Vista, Oakland-Piedmont. Info: 510-841-4339.

Sun 6

'Stubble' @ Eagle Tavern

Manley Lennox and Sister Kitty Catalyst OCP emcees "Stubble," a benefit for the AIDS Candlelight Vigil and The Center for Sex & Culture. Special guests: Dr. Carol Queen and Dr. Robert Lawrence, founders of the Center for S&C. Prizes & giveaways. Kink welcome. Free condoms & lube from the BLOW project. The SF AIDS Candlelight Vigil, begun in 1983 in SF and NYC, is the local observance of the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. This year as always the march will be held on the third Sunday in May. \$8 entry/benefit but includes dinner. Raffle-o-promo tix are \$2 each or three tix for \$5. 3-6pm. The Eagle Tavern, 12th & Harrison streets. Info: seagle.com; www.candlelightmemorial.org/; www.CenterForSexAndCulture.com

SF Hiking Club @ Diablo Foothills/Shell Ridge

Enjoy hiking across green hills with scattered oaks, buckeyes and large patches of mustards in bloom. It's a moderate 11-mile hike with a 2,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: www.sfhiking.com

Outlook Video @ Comcast 29

Outlook, since 1987, an LGBT video magazine featuring segments from around the Bay, State, Nation & World. New episodes monthly. This month's *Outlook* will feature coverage of the LGBT Wedding Expo at the St Francis Hotel in Union Square, and Palm Springs Pride. The hosts are Roberta Gonzalez-Gregg and Tom Smith. Airs 5pm, Sun., Mar. 6 on Comcast 29 in San Francisco. For info on airings in San Jose, Santa Cruz, the East Bay and Sacramento, visit OutlookVideo.com



"Survival of the Fittest," oil on canvas, by Will Wilson, part of "Paint What You Want" at John Pence Gallery. See Friday.

Alameda Point Antiques & Collectibles Fair

The Alameda Point Antique and Collectibles Fair on March 6th offers the joy of visiting several hundred charming little antique shops all in one day at one convenient location. Held the first Sunday of every month at the former Naval Air Station in Alameda, the event features more than 800 outdoor booths packed with quality merchandise 20 years old and older. Something for everyone, whether you're looking to spend \$10 or \$10,000. Unlimited free parking and park-and-lot shuttle service for all. Vendor Set Up 6-7:30am (\$15 Adults); Early Admission 7:30-9am (\$10 Adults); General Admission 9am-3pm (\$5 Adults). Children under 16 admitted free. Info: (510) 522-7500; www.antiquesbythebay.net

Mon 7

Keith Boykin @ A Different Light Bookstore

Reading & book signing with Keith Boykin, author of *Beyond the Down Low*. Why black men are afraid to talk about their sexuality. Why black women are caught in the middle. Why the media got the story wrong. Why everybody is talking about the down low. Free. 7pm. 489 Castro St. (at 18th). Info: 415-431-0891; www.adlbooks.com

Tue 8

The Riddle of Gender

@ Cody's Books, Berkeley

Deborah Rudacille looks at *The Riddle of Gender: Science, Activism, and Transgender Rights*. Rudacille, a science writer at Johns Hopkins, takes a penetrating look at the growing community of people whose bodies and psyches fall between the boundaries of male and female, from Chevalier d'Éon, the 18th century French aristocrat who lived 49 years as a man and 34 as a woman; to Chelsea Goodwin and Rusty Mae Moore, founders of Transy House, a shelter for transgendered and transsexual people in Brooklyn. Free. 7:30pm at Cody's, 2545 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. Info: 510-845-7852; codybooks.com

Anna Conda's Dance Macabre @ Trannyshack

Miss Trannyshack 2004 Anna Conda presents Dance Macabre, an evening of tongue-in-cheek dance art performances, featuring dance troupe members Kiddie, Fauxnique and Fria Latex. Experience the world of bizarre theater art. DJ Derek spins MISS Chocolate at the door. \$7 cover. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). The Stud, 9th & Harrison. Info: www.hekina.com

Painted Men: Chinese Opera Backstage @ SFPALM

Opening night celebration: The San Francisco Performing Arts Library & museum celebrates the amazing legacy of Chinese Opera in SF with the exhibition *Painted Men: Chinese Opera Backstage*, on view March 9-June 4. Opening night on Tue., Mar. 8, 6-8pm, includes wine, hors d'oeuvres, and live performance by some of the Bay Area's finest contemporary Chinese opera performers, including Oakland's Great Wall Youth Orchestra featuring the 9-year-old African-American prodigy Tyler Thompson.

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Marcus does Dallas

NJ couple named Int'l. Master/slave 2005

by Mister Marcus

No contestants turned out for the Mr./Ms. South Plains Leather titles in Dallas this past weekend, so the contest was canceled. But there were four couples in Dallas vying for the International Master/slave competition: Master Guardian and slave "sugar" from Las Vegas, Nevada; Sir Stephen and slave catherine from Monroe, New Jersey; Master Tom and slave linda from Stockbridge, Georgia; and Mistress Tammy and slave john from Louisville, Kentucky. They faced the judges and went through the paces on stage, with Graylin Thornton and Glenda Ryder enceeing the show. They contestants did a great job, as always, and the auditorium of the Crowne Plaza in Dallas was overflowing with fans who had come for the contests and the numerous workshops.

A word of praise here for the management and staff of the Crowne Plaza on Mockingbird Lane in Dallas. Next to the Washington Plaza in the nation's capital, the Crowne Plaza in Dallas went out of their way to make it a pleasant experience the entire weekend. Thankfully, this hotel will host South Plains Leatherfest weekend for the next five years.

When all the scores were tallied, Sir Stephen and slave catherine captured the titles International Master and slave 2005. There was much jubilation in the elbow-to-elbow crowd.

Many enlightening workshops were held throughout the weekend, along with a few "play parties" thrown in to add to the fun. Ms. Shameless (formerly of Kansas City and now terrorizing Asbury Park, NJ) had a few people wondering about her cute capers, running around the hotel with a toy pistol!

On a more positive note, Mark Frazier, co-producer of the weekend, received the Jack Stice Memorial Award, and a dazzling



Mister Marcus

International Master Stephen and International slave catherine were chosen at the South Plains Leatherfest in Dallas on Saturday, February 26. They hail from Monroe Township, New Jersey.

quilt made by Master Steve Sampson was auctioned off for over \$1,000, paid for by the outgoing International Master Ron Zimmerman.

Despite the fact that there were no contestants for Mr. and Ms. South Plains Leather, there were many thrilling moments during the weekend, and last year's South Plains Leather winners, Meraviah and Randal Kinnean, made gracious step-aside speeches. Master Ron and slave

tony were both eloquent in their farewell words, and all received standing ovations from the crowds.

The 15 Association turns 15

A healthy crowd turned out for The 15 Association's 15th Anniversary Banquet in San Francisco on Friday night. 15 Association president J. T. Rutkowski received a con-

gratulatory resolution from Mayor Gavin Newsom, and another congratulatory resolution was presented from Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Bevan Dufty. Some \$6,800 was raised by The 15 Association since last year, and those funds were distributed to the Sorel Fund, AIDS Emergency Fund, NCSF and the Leather Archives & Museum. Bravo! Peter Fiske got back from his adventures in Africa just in time for the ceremony.

Gap in the Bare Chest Calendar

At the Powerhouse last Thursday night, February 24, there were no contestants for the Bare Chest Calendar round and this is a sorry state of affairs. I suppose various reasons exist for this dearth in manly chests, but maybe someday the "committee" that controls these contests will become aware of what they are doing and get it right. The next contest is this

next page ►

E V E N T U R E S I N L E A T H E R

Thursday, March 3

Bare Chest Calendar contest at the Powerhouse around 2200 tonight. Jump in and do some painless volunteering.

Weekend, March 4-7

In St. Louis, Ron Walters steps aside as Mr. Missouri Leather 2004 at a 3-day contest weekend. Mr. SF Leather 2004 Julian Marshburn is an honored guest, and Mr. Marcus will be there judging so you'll get the results here - first!

In San Diego, Mr. San Diego Leather will be chosen, the winner to compete at IML in 2006.

Friday, March 4

Mr. North Coast Leather Jeff Hettinger presents "Leather Fetish" at 2000 tonight with Leather Fetish show at 2100 with dancing. \$10 cover charge to benefit Camp Sunburst and LAMBDA-Sacramento.

Saturday, March 5

Men of Discipline-San Francisco present "Back in Black" at Daddy's, inviting men and women in uniforms, leather and fetish wear for an interlude with jello shots, jock strap and boots contest and entertainment. Until midnight. Go!

Mr. Hayes Valley Leather Jay Harcourt presents a "not so serious evening for a seriously good cause" with a "Mr. Sash Queen Contest". A spoof,

to be sure. Celebrity judges, entertainment, raffle & auction. It all begins at 2000.

In Long Beach, (South of San Luis Obispo), it's the Mr. Long Beach Leather contest at Pistons. The Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2005 roster is growing!

Tuesday, March 8

Get all tied up at Bondage Buddies at 933 Harrison tonight. You know the hours and the rules. For info, call: 777-HEAD.

Weekend, March 11-13

Kirkfest in Portland, Oregon sponsored by Portland Leather Alliance. For info, email to: MsOr-Leather2003@aol.com.

In Albuquerque, NM, "Spring Pandemonium" with a meet & greet, play party, workshops and Fantasy Night.

Friday, March 11

Canadian Bacon II with Mr. SF Leather Dodger and Toronto Leatherman Sean Cribbins at 2000 tonight at Daddy's Bar to benefit the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund Dinner. A 50/50 drawing, door prizes and a \$7 beer/soda bust.

Saturday, March 12

5th Annual Breast Emergency Fund dinner at the ARC (11th & Howard Sts.). Tickets are \$60 available from www.frantix.net. Be there!

DVD

Carnal obsession

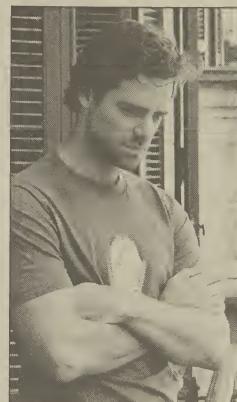
'Testosterone' now out on DVD

by Gregg Shapiro

Novelist Dennis Hensley (*Misadventures in the (213), Screening Party*) and filmmaker David Moreton (*Edge of Seventeen*) collaborated on the screenplay for the film adaptation of the late James Robert Baker's novel *Testosterone*, now out on DVD. Directed by Moreton, *Testosterone* concerns obsessed, spurned lover Dean (David Sutcliffe), who follows his fleeing boyfriend Pablo (Antonio Sabato, Jr.) all the way to Argentina to find out why he left him.

Gregg Shapiro: We've been hearing a lot lately about "down low" culture, and there is something of that in *Testosterone*: a man having sexual relationships with men and women. What do you think about all of that?

Dennis Hensley: I find the whole down-low thing fascinating, and think J.L. King has balls of steel to go on *Oprah* and basically tell her and her whole audience that their husbands and boyfriends are probably banging each other as we speak. The difference in our movie is that Pablo's never been secretive about



Dean (David Sutcliffe) searches.

his needs for "mansex."

David Moreton: The idea that there is some kind of politically correct standard of behavior that should be projected onto characters in a movie is kind of silly. In fact, we've heard some criticism because our broken-hearted gay hero has a one-night stand with another guy in the movie. I mean, are we getting to the point where our characters are being

forced to behave in a completely unrealistic and idealistic way, just so that we feel better about our culture?

Testosterone also focuses on the destructive downward spiral of obsession. Do you have any obsessions, Dennis?

DH: I'm pretty obsessed with *The Amazing Race*. Every week as I'm watching it and it's coming down to the wire I think, "This is going to be over in a few minutes, and then I'll have to go back to my humdrum life." In the last year, I also had a romantic relationship that cut surprisingly deep and then didn't work out, so the themes of the movie really resonate with me. I'm sort of obsessed with the idea of love, lately, and its place in gay culture. Having actually experienced it, I do think that it's the big fish that a lot of us are after, whether we admit it or not. But I've been in gay environments — clubs or parties — where everyone's talking about who they've banged or who they'd like to bang, and if I were to point to someone and say, "He's attractive and seems interesting... I think I'll try to ask him on a date," people would look at me like I was crazy or weak or naive. ▼

Out There

◀ page 38

Hmm, silenced gays: it's a concept with staying power. The principal at Fleming Island High School has decided to ban the yearbook photo of senior Kelli Davis, an out lesbian, because she is wearing a tuxedo and bow-tie. "There's a dress code expected for senior photos, and she chose not to follow them. It's just that simple," Clay County School Superintendent David Owens told a local TV newscast. We'd say it's even simpler: clear proof of closed minds.

Let's take a quick break for the latest entry into the Department of Great Smutty Headlines in *The New York Times* That Aren't What They Seem, from the Feb. 25 *Escapes* section: "South Rim Activites Don't Stop for Winter."

Strange fruit

Our puckish pen-pal Strange

de Jim drops a line.

"Dear de Roberto, My new Aunt Ethel invited Brad and Jen to her Bev Hills estate and turned them over to *Granny Fifi* and me for pleasure-healing. Next night, Brad and Jen, as you know, were surprise guests on *Letterman*, where their rekindled love and devotion inspired millions of couples who were, fortunately, already in bed. Then Dave looked right into the camera, and, tears streaming down his face, begged his son Harry's mom: 'Possums, please marry me!' Or did I just imagine all that? Beep beep!" Love, Strange."

Hooray for Hollywood

This week's issue features in-depth reviews of new DVD collections of classic *Elizabeth Taylor* and Barbra Streisand films. As appetizers of sorts to those entrees, here are a couple of anecdotes in which the two legendary actresses figure.

Gossip columnist Hedda Hopper had been a supporting player in a *Joan Bennett* film in the '30s, and she resented the fact that her close-ups came late in the day, when she and her make-up looked tired, while the youthful Bennett was photographed early in the day. In her column, she wrote about it and asked how Bennett felt now that she had to wait until late afternoon for her close-ups while Elizabeth Taylor's were all done while she was fresh. Bennett responded by sending Hopper a skunk. Hopper named the skunk "Joan" and donated it to the Los Angeles Zoo.

Decades later, backers of *The Mirror Has Two Faces* had originally wanted Elizabeth Taylor to play the part of Streisand's mother. Streisand rejected her, saying that Taylor's casting would generate far too much press, detracting attention from the film — and from her. That's how Lauren Bacall got the part. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Thursday night (March 3) at the Powerhouse at around 2100.

Mama's dinner

On Saturday night, March 12, Mama's annual Breast Cancer Emergency Fund dinner/banquet takes place at the ARC (1500 Howard St.) and tickets are going fast. At \$60 a throw, there's a no host bar around 1900 and a 4 entrée choice, plus lots of surprising entertainment. It's one of those dress-up affairs (formal leather is suggested) geared to raise funds for the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. A lot of faithful volunteers are working hard to present a dazzling evening and I hope you're all there. To order your tickets, go to www.frantix.net.

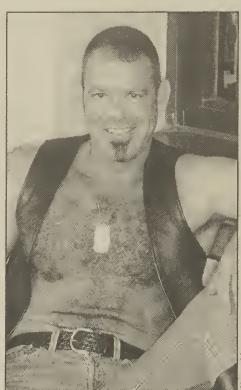
BS on 18th Street

It's called BS at 4072 - 18th St. on Tuesday, March 8 with a menu

of burgers, steaks and home comfort cooking by a down-to-earth staff. BS will also be open after 2 a.m. on certain weekend nights. Of course, it's a full liquor bar. By "home comfort cooking" they mean pot roast, free range chicken, fried catfish and vegetable skewers. Get this: also specialty alcoholic milk shakes! Check it out. The proprietors are leather-friendly!

Remember, nominations for the annual Golden Dildeaux Awards (April 16th at the Eagle) are wide open until March 13, and you can nominate the naughty ones at the Eagle, Powerhouse, Marlena's, Daddy's, Mr. Lee-Ona's and the Edge. Nominations are free. Voting ballots are only \$1. Vote early and often!

That's about it for this week. Stay tuned for developments from the leather nation around the world. Until next week, keep living, keep laughing, keep loving and keep volunteering. Need I say, "do it in leather!"



Meet Michael Egdes (yes, that's how he spells his last name), who is Mr. Ramrod Leather from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He proved to be a worthy volunteer during South Plains Leatherfest in Dallas, Texas last weekend. He's not hard to look at either!

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drawing (c) Dick Klingaman

Walk on Water

◀ Arts cover

sion on the distribution of cut and uncut penises.

Stranger truth

Sitting in a San Francisco hotel room, Fox explains that the core story of *Walk on Water* came as a gift from his therapist. The real-life story was so startling that even this very gay filmmaker felt he had to tone it down for the screen.

"A Mossad agent comes home one day from a week abroad, doing what they do, and he calls out his wife's name, walks into their washroom, and finds her hanging from the ceiling. She leaves a note describing how disgusting, terrible and unbearable life has become with him, being the man that he is. He represses that immediately, and just like the character in our film, goes back to the Mossad and prepares for his next mission. But slowly he starts cracking up, and all these anxiety attacks start coming in. He goes to therapy, decides to leave the Mossad, [enrolling at] Tel Aviv University, studying all kinds of things you would not imagine a man like him studying: philosophy, history, and art. He meets a young man, who is a different generation from him and a different kind of man, and falls in love with him.



Cast of *Walk on Water*: Lior Ashkenazi, Carolina Peters and Knut Berger

"My psychiatrist doesn't know if this is a good thing that's happening or a bad thing, but he realizes that his patient is changing in amazing ways, doing things he's never done before, experiencing emotions he's never experienced

before. After half a year of this relationship going on, it fades out, and he meets his [ex-lover's] sister, falls in love with her, and starts a new family with her. The story blew my mind. I realized exactly what this man was going through, the psyche of this Israeli macho Mossad agent. I thought that would be a wonderful starting point for the film."

Fox saw that this fable of transformation might be a way of showing the crisis that affects the very kind of men that Israelis were brought up to be. "Our grandparents came to Israel and started this state, and created this new kind of man who's supposed to be a tough, macho warrior. On the one hand, these men did wonderful things for Israel, and on the other hand, these men became these emotional cripples."

"So I thought, 'Let's confront this macho Mossad agent with a man who is like the same species, but is so completely different. On the one hand, he's the grandson of a famous Nazi, and our agent is the son of Holocaust survivors; and he's gay, which is very threatening and very difficult for our



Filmmakers and life partners Gal Uchovsky and Eytan Fox in Tel Aviv.

character to handle. Metaphorically speaking, let's put these men in one room and have them deal with each other and see what happens."

Fox felt he had to tone down the very element that was so exciting about the original story, the startling love affair between a straight man and a gay one. "I was kind of asking that same question myself: Am I trying to please straight audiences, to be more commercial? I don't think that is the case at all. I can't be accused of being someone who's not shown gay love, gay sex on television." In the early '90s, Fox was the head writer of *Florentine*, an Israeli TV serial in which there was an ongoing, out gay character.

Fox says he didn't want the audience to be distracted by sex between two men and thus obscure more profound issues these guys are grappling with. "That would confuse everyone, not only straight people, confuse gay people as well. Like, what is going on? Is he becoming gay? Is he gay? Let's talk about the emotional side of things, which can have (and I think that's wonderful) a physical

side to them."

Ironically, in Israel, a more controversial aspect of the film has been its portrayal of the country's fabled spooks. Fox says he got a call to join the Mossad when he was 18, and he's kept in touch with friends who did sign up to be agents. "It's funny that Israelis, who are so protective of the Mossad, thought we portrayed 'our Mossad' as prone to mistakes," as bunglers. "The film is trying to say there are a lot of problems in the Mossad, and the agents are kind of difficult people who need a lot of help to change."

Fox says the way he decided to dramatize the crisis confronting tough Israeli guys was to confront his agent with a kindler, gentler young German — precisely the kind of young German he had met and fallen for on a trip to Germany when he was 17. Fox adds that young Knut Berger won the role as soon as he entered the room. "He came on his bike, excited because his sister had just had her first baby, telling me about it, and his eyes were lit up, and I said, 'You're the character.' Opens Friday at the Clay. ▼

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Phyllis Diller

◀ Arts cover

ratty fur-piece and a cigarette in an elegant holder, the predominantly gay audience was immediately charmed.

Diller returned the favor. Her one-liners skewered her gawky looks and her domestic life, the latter in shambles thanks to an "agoraphobic sex tyrant" husband named Sherwood. But the Midwestern transplant from St. Louis never stooped to homophobic humor, even though gays were an easy mark during the McCarthy era.

"No, no, no, no," she said. "In fact, Joan Rivers and I both absolutely insist that we never would have got started without our gay audience. They were the first to actually accept us as funny women."

The nutty lady in the hand-me-down glad-rags, speaking mockingly about the downside of marriage and suburban living, was quickly developing a following. Her first colleague was a local man named Lloyd Clark. "Suave, dark-haired, pencil-thin, and overtly gay," Diller recalls in her book, Clark helped Diller to develop jokes for her act for \$5 per



Diller today maintains a disarming level of honesty and humor.

hour. A well-known Bay Area character, Clark had the elegant, fussbudget demeanor of actor Clifton Webb. He also had a wife, an obese blonde who fussed over her queen of a mate. Diller did not judge Clark, whose transparent domestic arrangement was the

rule rather than the exception in that era.

Diller's start at The Purple Onion was thanks to a man named Barrymore Drew. A tall, elegant man who always wore sandals, Drew was part-owner of the

next page ►

COMEDY

Phyllis Diller

◀ previous page

club. In addition to manning the light and sound boards, he also selected talent. Drew played housemother to the roster of singers and comedians at the Purple Onion, and was enchanted by Diller's suburban housewife in an ill-fitting evening dress and rhinestone-accented high heels. She was hired to perform six nights in this dark, musty basement of a nightclub, playing the same stage as an aspiring dancer-actress named Maya Angelou.

Under Drew's tutelage, Diller developed new comic personas, from a fortune-teller to a gangster's moll, and played for both locals and crowds that arrived in tourist buses. She received \$60 a week. Drew even shared his Sausalito houseboat with Diller, which offered her a nice respite from the spiraling career crises of her husband Sherwood. A perennial dreamer with grandiose airs and dead-end schemes, "Sherry" often found himself between jobs and unable to meet the rent. Diller and Drew became best friends, to the point that she would accompany him on nightly cruising in San Francisco's Fillmore district, since Drew had a sweet tooth for men of color.

"Oh, my precious Barrymore!" Diller said. "Well, here's a gay man who's just totally responsible for my first five years. He took care of me as a father would. He gave of himself."

Throughout the book's narrative, gay men are remembered with great affection. One is Rod McKuen, the Stanyan Street poet-songwriter whom Diller met in the early '50s, when she was a copywriter at radio station KROW. McKuen was a disc jockey.

"He was an 18-year-old child, and here I was a 33-year-old housewife," she said. "We absolutely bonded instantly because, you know, talent and creativity. He was a musician, a poet and a scholar, and I considered myself the same. We simply loved each other and became excellent soulmates, and it has lasted a lifetime." The two shared a cruise to the South of France just two years ago.

Like a Lampshade in a Whorehouse maintains a disarming level of honesty. Double-crossing people whom Diller encounters on the way up — managers, fellow comics, greedy relatives — are dispatched with biting assessments and an epithet or two. She acknowledges the sad tale of one daughter with brain damage, who is institutionalized. Husband Sherwood receives more than a quick drubbing; his avarice, eccentricity and emotional torture of wife and children are recorded for the ages.

Second helping

Another man bears an ample portion of Diller's fury. Warde Donovan was Diller's second husband. A tall, robust and handsome actor with a seductive baritone voice, Donovan offered a tempting alternative to the increasingly troubled Sherry. They met in the summer of '62, in a Chicago revival of *Wonderful Town*. Diller's star was on the rise; she had a part in the movie *Splendor in the Grass*, and appeared on the Jack Paar show. Bob Hope was a big fan, and their stage act was now booked in major clubs in Los Angeles, New York and Miami. (She was even given the key to San Francisco on June 7, 1963, which was declared Phyllis Diller Day by Mayor George Christopher.) More films, television series and a tour of

Vietnam with Hope lay ahead.

Diller and Donovan began to carry on energetically, even though both were married. When Donovan's wife died in '65, Diller happily gave Sherry the boot, and the two finally married. They moved into a 22-room mansion in the Brentwood section of LA, where neighbors included Robert Mitchum, Bette Davis, Cloris Leachman and Judy Garland.

Warde Donovan was everything that Sherry was not: attentive, ambitious and sexually satisfying. He was now the opening act to her stage show, which was being booked overseas. But Donovan was also bisexual, a reality that Diller had tried her damndest to ignore. But the last straw came during a trip to Australia, when Donovan had a romp with a limousine driver and returned to the hotel, as Diller writes, "with the smell of semen on his breath." The marriage of three months was soon over.

Diller retired officially from show business in 2002, at the age of 84, with a farewell concert at the Suncoast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Comedy royalty turned out for the event, including Lily Tomlin, Rich Little, David Brenner, Don Rickles, Roseanne, Ruth Buzzi and JoAnn Worley. The event is captured in a touching if sometimes overly fawning documentary by Gregg Barson called *Goodnight, We Love You*. Calling herself the Madonna of the Geritol set, Diller displays the same self-mockery that made her famous. But she also fires off some topical gags: "I went to a gay wedding, and I caught the jockstrap," she observes, adding, "In San Francisco, a mixed marriage is a man and woman." *Goodnight, We Love You* has been screening at film festivals around the country, most recently the HBO US Comedy Arts Festival.

At the height of her comic career in the '70s, Diller switched gears and toured as a classical pianist, drawing on a formidable talent that first flowered during her St. Louis childhood. Today, nearing 88, she no longer plays. ("God, that's work. I'm very lazy.") Instead, Diller is a celebrated painter, working in acrylic, water and spit," she said, her signature horselaugh filling the phone receiver. At the behest of friends, she holds an exhibition in her Beverly Hills home four times a year, and people come to snatch up her vivid tableaus, which suggest the work of Matisse.

When not painting, Diller keeps lunch and dinner dates with her inner circle of friends, which includes former governor Pete Wilson and his wife, as well as old Hollywood luminaries: Dolores Hope, the widow of Bob; and June Haver, a dependable gin buddy and the widow of Fred MacMurray. There is still fan mail, which Diller answers personally with an autographed glossy. Coming to the end of her list of daily activities, Diller stops, adding, "Jesus, I'm busy."

While her memories of eight decades chronologically hopscotch about the pages, Diller's recall is impressive. Asked how she refreshed her memory, Diller demurs.

"It's all there; I just have to shake my head and it comes out." But looking back, she said, provided Diller with a powerful perspective on her comedy: ultimately, the self-ridicule and stinging one-liners were a marvelous coping mechanism for a challenging adult life.

"It took me to be over 80 years old, beyond that age, to realize that my act was actually very therapeutic." ▼

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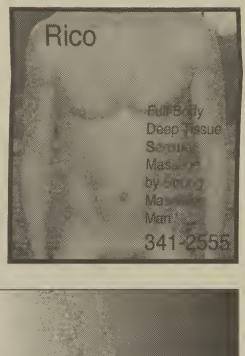
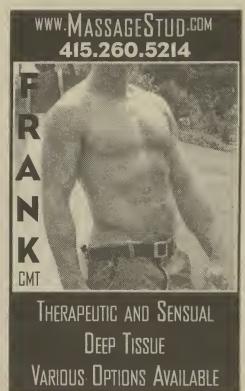
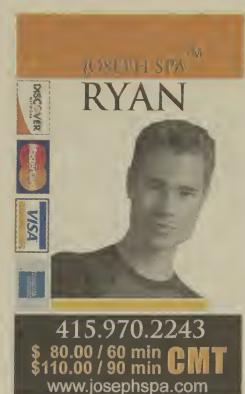
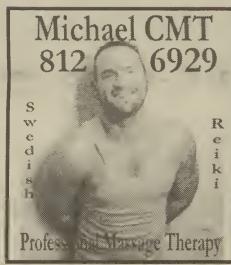
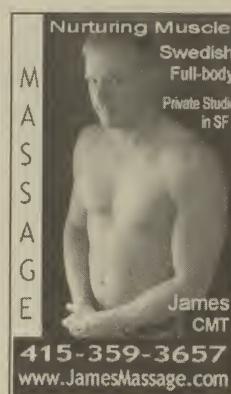
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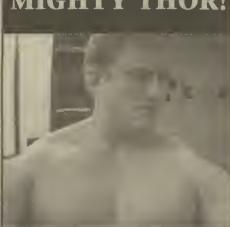
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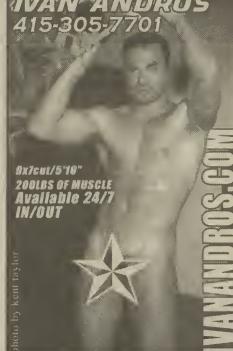
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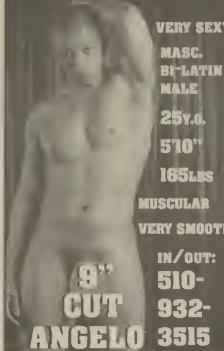
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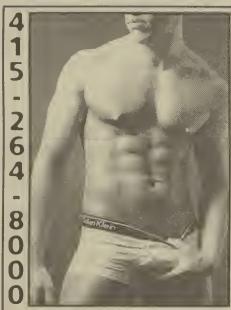
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E04-06

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Hook-up Discreetly. 18+.
Call 415-247-2000 or
510-814-6699. Ad #5102.

E1B

MUSIC LOVER SEEKS SAME!

GWM, professional, 54, HIV-, brn hair & eyes, 5'11" av build, Loves the symphony, singing and Sunday New York Times. ISO fellow music aficionado in his 30's or 40's, HIV-, attractive, upbeat attitude & playful wit! San Jose or San Francisco Bay Area preferred. Visit <http://gaymillionairesclub.com> client ad 2738 (FREE)

E09

BAR TALK**1.900.226.7036**

Only \$1.99 per minute to respond to ads!

Don't want to use the #900 line? Use BLOCK OF TIME™ You can purchase time on our system by calling 1-800-321-6845 and requesting a 10, 20, 30, or 60 minute Block of Time™ with discounts of up to 20%. The cost is \$1.99 per minute and you may use your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express card. You will be able to respond, browse, and retrieve messages by using your Block of Time™ account from any touch-tone phone! Available only on touch-tone telephones. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Dark Skin Mexican Latin G-Looking
40 yrs, H-5'7 W-157lb, versatile legal resident of SF. Slim, muscular body. Lite hair on body nice ass/kid ISO GWM/GLM 30/45 yrs. 5/5/5/10 150/160 lbs. versatile. Size unimportant. No drugs, smoking, or heavy drinkers.

71502

Older Cigar Or Pipe Smokers
LM 6', 165Lbs, dk hr. I'm looking for a much older M who regularly smokes cigars or pipes & enjoys a lot of affection, deep kissing, & other oral pleasures. Not into gay lifestyle.

71497

Legal Resident GLM
Me: GLM/early 40's H-5'7 W-155 Husky look. Versatile w/ nice ass and body. HIV+ and healthy. Tattoos/piercings clean body and mind. You: GWM/GLM 30/40 yrs. H-5'5-5'10 W150/160. Versatile flat stomach HIV+ healthy N/D

71485

50s German Looking To Meet Men
Blonde German looking to meet guys between 50-60. Disease free, sense of humor, friendship wanted - I'm just a simple Joe.

71503

Donde esta el amigo de mi alma?
Gay Latino, 50's, 5'10", 200#, seeks Latino soulmate, 40-70, passionate, romantic, and ready for monogamous relationship. Toma mi mano, y juntos volaremos en las alas del amor!

71490

Musician, Yogi, writer
Looking for new boyfriend - must be: funny, under 45 (I am 34), creative, kind, caring, healthy, good listener. See ya!

71487

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Caucasian Bottom For Asian Top
Mature talented white bottom wants to pleasure Asian top w/my muscular tan line butt!

71498

Kewi Blue Collar Top ISO Boy Pup
GWM 39 with an edge for sexual pleasures, and very good at it. ISO tall slim white boy that knows how to play hard. Think it's you? Reply!

71504

Endowed Black Man, 50, 5'9", 180
Needs oral servicing daytime M-F from a mature, oral expert, either clean shaven or mustache only. No age limit, all races welcome. Direct phone required.

71501

Hobo Bear
Homeless, 30ish, uncut guy, hairy, bearded, bubble butt, 13EE, sandaled, freckled, English/Welsh. Let's have togetherness, warmth - or, show me who's boss! Freckles, hazel eyes, brunette, wide shoulders.

71492

Pose For Male Nude Photos!!
Photographers in East Bay looking for in-shape male models for nude, artistic, erotic and sensual photos. We want to put you in pictures. Call and join the fun!

71494

Spank Your Butt

Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11" 175#, seeks well built bottom with nice ass for over the knee spankings, role playing and plowing your ass

71496

Sex Nude Beaches And Sunshine!
Masculine godlooking GWM seeks travel partner for nude beaches and travel. Florida, Caribbean, Mexico. I'm very uninhibited and fun. Black guys a plus.

71499

Young Hung Submissive Needs Man
Bi-6ft smooth white boy 8 1/2 hung ISO mature man or men into role play, fantasy video + internet exhibitionism, verbal, who knows?

71483

Rasslin Bears at IBR?
Any rasslin' bears here for IBR? Tough hairy muscled tattooed 5'8" 148# skinhead bear, gym and ring, ISO tough hairy out-of-town bears for private HGW rasslin' fights.

71482

SR. GW Masc Top (Not Versatile)

ISO GW masc. submissive bottom for fun and games or more. Pls be over 40 small to x-large size ok and really good sex.

71484

Boyish Asian
Smooth masculine gym toned WM or AM to orally service and mutual play. Blond and under 40 a plus.

71486

FETISHES

Masc 50 Role Play Showing Off
5'10" 170lbs being served by talented mouth from older in shape suit and tie

71500

Bi - Threesome Ravish - 69 More
Me Mr. xx. Age 57 - ISO all bi - couples (21-45) for bi - threesome. 69 all day. French/Greek ++ Drag - Queens too - ++ No Drugs. Only "bi"

71499

Nude Wrestle
GWM, 5'8", 160 Lbs, seeking slim sized opponents for nude battle to pin or submission. Be clean and competitive.

71495

Naked Guys Into Golden Showers
Want to lay naked up to your balls in piss and dirty water? Meet me at the trough usually in the back of Mack Folsom Prison on Monday nights.

71493

Got Gyno?
ISO a man with bit tits or nipples who enjoys having them played with. I'm a GWM, 53, 6'2", 195Lbs, muscular with pumped up nipples. N/S, HIV-. Any weight ok.

71488

OTHERS

Play Ball!
Established Gay Softball team looking for players. World series participant 3 of last 5 years. All are welcome!

71491

BAR TALK PERSONALS ARE FREE!**CATEGORY**

<input type="checkbox"/> Parting Glances	<input type="checkbox"/> Seeking Relationship	<input type="checkbox"/> Seeking Adventure	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian	<input type="checkbox"/> Fetishes	<input type="checkbox"/> Couples	<input type="checkbox"/> Others
Headline, 30 characters maximum						
Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum						

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

PERSONALS

PEOPLE

XXX WEB

Calling All Single Men!

Join the nation's most exclusive matchmaking agency and meet quality, relationship minded men who want to meet you! Visit us online today. Free memberships to exceptional men ages 21-35. gaymillionairesclub.com

ADULT JOBS OFFERED

ADULT VIDEO COMPANY SEEKS LOCATIONS

Willing to pay top dollar for interesting, spacious locations to film our full-scale, premiere adult videos. Looking for dungeons, studios, warehouses, barns, garages, bars/nightclubs, theaters, gyms, large private homes, secluded private properties, etc. If you have a location we should see contact Leif at Hot House Entertainment: 415-864-8910 or leif@hottouse.com.

E10

FACTORY VIDEO

You - Hot, 18-35, in shape. Like sex & showing off - Making \$\$. Call now for an interview. Also looking for bears. Call us at 415-777-9070. www.factoryvideos.com

E99



REAL

All ads have photos and are pre-screened. Live help available 7 days a week.

HUGE

Over 300,000 members and five languages worldwide.

m4m-USA.com

LOCAL

At least 5,500 men online at all times!

now

Available in 58 cities. Find men wherever you are!

UNDERWEAR PARTY

Thursday, March 10
\$5 FREE before 10 P.M.
Benefits: P.A.W.S.

Trade in your old Underwear for a FREE drink!

WET Underwear contest at MIDNIGHT
\$100 First prize

1347 Folsom SF, CA 415-552-6669 powerhouse-sf.com

SOUTH OF MARKET BARE CHEST

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CALENDAR 2006

LAUNCH PARTY

Meet the spokesmodels!
View the new tv commercial!



6pm March 7, 2005

San Francisco LGBT Community Center
1800 Market Street
Rainbow Room - 2nd Floor

HIV STOPS WITH ME.ORG

*MILK and CUPCAKES SERVED